Reincarnation

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Reincarnation is the philosophical or religious concept that the non-physical essence of a living being starts a new life in a different physical form or body after biological death and transformation. It is also called rebirth and is a central tenet of Indian religions, namely Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Hinduism. A belief in rebirth/metempsychosis was held by Greek historic figures, such as Pythagoras, Socrates, and Plato. It is also a common belief of various ancient and modern religions such as Spiritism, Theosophy, and Eckankar, and as an esoteric belief in many streams of Orthodox Judaism. Some say it was part of Christian teachings until the Emperor Justinian I had church father Origen's (185-253) teachings banned in 553 AD. Most Jews believe in reincarnation and all Kabbalists do, along with followers of the Cathars, the Druze, Knights Templar, Freemasons and the Rosicrucians.

Quotes

A

- In the middle of one of the biggest, longest, noisiest, dirtiest thoroughfares in the world lives the reincarnation of a drowned princess, or rather, two hundred reincarnations of a drowned princess.
  - Douglas Adams & Mark Carwardine in Last Chance to See (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=YY8kAAAAQBAJ&pg=PT192), p. 192
- My whole belief system is that our paths are drawn for us. I believe in reincarnation. I believe we're here to learn and grow. We choose how we come into this life based on what it is we have to learn. Some people have harder lessons than others.
  - Gillian Anderson, in *Movieline Magazine* "Gillian of the Spirits" (http://gilliananderson.ws/transcripts/98/98movieline.shtml) (January, 1999)
- Thus it seems right to conclude that the [Roman Catholic Church's] ban on the teaching of reincarnation is based on historical misrepresentation and has no ecclesiastical authority. It was in fact a fait accompli, brought about by Justinius, which no-one within the Christian church has dared to challenge in the course of some 1500 years. What is worse is that the subject has been totally ignored, as a glance at any encyclopaedia will show.
  - Peter Andreas in *Jenseits von Einstein: D. Suche nach d. Schicksalsforme, Germany (1978)* in *Share International magazine* (https://www.share-international.org/archives/AgelessWisdom/aw_bannned.htm)

- This fundamental belief may be expressed as the doctrine that there is in man an immaterial Something (called the soul, spirit, inner self, or many other names) which does not perish at the death or disintegration of the body, but which persists as an entity, and after a shorter or longer interval of rest reincarnates, or is re-born, into a new body—that of an unborn infant—from whence it proceeds to live a new life in the body, more or less unconscious of its past existences, but containing within itself the "essence" or results of its past lives, which experiences go to make up its new[Pg 9] "character," or "personality." It is usually held that the rebirth is governed by the law of attraction, under one name or another, and which law operates in accordance with strict justice, in the direction of attracting the reincarnating soul to a body, and conditions, in accordance with the tendencies of the past life, the parents also attracting to them a soul bound to them by some ties in the past, the law being universal, uniform, and equitable to all concerned in the matter. This is a general statement of the doctrine as it is generally held by the most intelligent of its adherents.
    - William Walker Atkinson in *Reincarnation and the Law of Karma* (http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26364), (1908)
- The doctrine of Reincarnation—Metempsychosis—Rebirth—has always been held as truth by a large portion of the human race. Following the invariable law of cyclic changes—the swing of the pendulum of thought—at times it has apparently died out in parts of the world, only to be again succeeded by a new birth and interest among the descendants of the same people. It is a light impossible to extinguish, and although its flickering flame may seem to die out for a moment, the shifting of the mental winds again allows it to rekindle from the hidden spark, and lo! again it bursts into new life and vigor.... the teaching of Reincarnation never has passed away altogether from the race—in some parts of the world the lamp has been kept burning brightly—nay, more, at no time in human history has there been a period in which the majority of the race has not accepted the doctrine of Rebirth... In this Twentieth Century nearly if not quite two-thirds of the race hold firmly to the teaching, and the multitudes of Hindus and other Eastern peoples cling to it tenaciously... Reincarnation is not a "forgotten truth," or "discarded doctrine," but one fully alive and vigorous, and one which is destined to play a very important part in the history of Western thought during the Twentieth Century.
    - William Walker Atkinson in *Reincarnation and the Law of Karma* (http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26364), (1908)
- Following Pythagoras, Plato, the great Grecian philosopher, taught the old-new doctrine of Rebirth. He taught that the souls of the dead must return to earth, where, in new lives, they must wear out the old earth deeds, receiving benefits for the worthy ones, and penalties for the unworthy ones, the soul profiting by these repeated experiences, and rising step by step toward the divine.
  Plato taught that the reincarnated soul has flashes of remembrance of its former lives, and also instincts and intuitions gained by former experiences. He classed innate ideas among these inherited experiences of former lives. It has been well said that "everything can be found in Plato," and therefore one who seeks for the ancient Grecian ideas concerning Reincarnation, and the problems of the soul, may find that which he seeks in the writings of the old sage and philosopher. Plato was the past master of the inner teachings concerning the soul, and all who have followed him have drawn freely from his great store of wisdom.
    - William Walker Atkinson in *Reincarnation and the Law of Karma* (http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26364), (1908)

Following Pythagoras, Plato, the great Grecian philosopher, taught the old-new doctrine of Rebirth. He taught that the souls of the dead must return... in new lives, they must wear out the old earth deeds, receiving benefits for the worthy ones, and penalties for the unworthy ones, the soul profiting by these repeated experiences, and rising step by step toward the divine. ~ William Walker Atkinson

B

The doctrine of the Reincarnation of the individual soul is now accepted by a majority in the West as being possible... All Hindus and Buddhists have believed in reincarnation for thousands of years. ~ Swami Abhedananda

- All souls incarnate and re-incarnate under the Law of Rebirth. Hence each life is not only a recapitulation of life experience, but an assuming of ancient obligations, a recovery of old relations, an opportunity for the paying of old indebtedness, a chance to make restitution and progress, an awakening of deep-seated qualities, the recognition of old friends and enemies, the solution of revolting injustices, and the explanation of that which conditions the man, and makes him what he is. Such is the law which is crying now for universal recognition.
  - Alice A. Bailey, in *Esoteric Psychology Vol 1,* p. 300, (1936)
- The new psychology must inevitably be built upon the premise that this one life is not man's sole opportunity in which to achieve integration and eventual perfection. The great Law of Rebirth must be accepted, and it will then be found to be, in itself, a major releasing agent in any moment of crisis, or any psychological problem case. The recognition of a further opportunity, and a lengthened sense of time, are both quieting and helpful to many types of mind.
  - Alice A. Bailey, in *Esoteric Psychology Vol 2,* p. 431, (1953)
- Practically all the teaching given anent rebirth or reincarnation, has emphasised the material phenomenal side, though there has always been a more or less casual reference to the spiritual and mental gains acquired in the school of life upon this planet, from incarnation to incarnation. The true nature of the unfolding awareness, and the growth of the inner consciousness of the true man, have been little noted; the gain of each life in added grasp of the mechanism of contact, and the result of increased sensitivity to the environment, are seldom if ever stressed.
  - Alice A. Bailey, in *Esoteric Psychology Vol 2,*] p. 432, (1941)
- The entire subject of rebirth is but little understood at present. Its modern interpretation, and the emphasis which has been laid so strongly on small and unimportant details, have distorted and diverted the wide sweep of the subject and ignored the true import of the process; the broad general lines of the incarnation process, have been largely overlooked... in the puerile reconstruction of the past lives of theosophically inclined people (none of them based on any truth), the real truth and the real beauty of the theme have been lost to sight.
  - Alice A. Bailey, in *Esoteric Astrology,* p. 316/7, (1951)

As the soul experiences in this body, childhood, youth, and old age, so also it acquires another body; the sage in this is not deluded. *Bhagavad Gita,* Chapter 2, verse 13

- The theory of reincarnation, so familiar to all my readers, is becoming increasingly popular in the Occident; it has always been accepted (though with many foolish additions and interpretations) in the Orient. This teaching has been as much distorted as have the teachings of the Christ or the Buddha or Shri Krishna by their narrow-minded and mentally limited theologians. The basic facts of a spiritual origin, of a descent into matter, of an ascent through the medium of constant incarnations in form until those forms are perfect expressions of the indwelling spiritual consciousness, and of a series of initiations at the close of the cycle of incarnation, are being more readily accepted and acknowledged than ever before.
  - Alice A. Bailey, in *Esoteric Healing,* (1953)

- There is, of course, no doubt that the great historical religions of the East included the teaching of Reincarnation as a fundamental tenet. In India, as in Egypt, Reincarnation was at the root of ethics. Among the Jews it was held commonly by the Pharisees, and the popular belief comes out in various phrases in the New Testament, as when John the Baptist is regarded as a reincarnation of Elijah or as when the disciples ask whether the man born blind is suffering for the sin of his parents or for some former sin of his own. ...The philosophic Gnostics and Neo-Platonists held it as an integral part of their doctrine. If we glance to the Western Hemisphere we meet Reincarnation as a firmly rooted belief among many of the tribes of North and South America. The Mayas, with their deeply interesting connection in language and symbolism with ancient Egypt, held the traditional doctrine...
    - Annie Besant, in *Reincarnation, Theosophical Manual* (http://blavatskyarchives.com/theosophypdfs/besant_reincarnation_1892.pdf), p. 6, (1892)

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” The Christian Bible, John 3:3

- The reader of Schopenhauer will be familiar with the aspect taken by Reincarnation in his philosophy. Penetrated as was the great German with Eastern thought from his study of the Upanishads, it would have been passing strange had this corner-stone of Hindu philosophy found no place in his system. Nor is Schopenhauer the only philosopher from the Intellectual and mystical German people who has accepted Reincarnation as a necessary factor in Nature...
  It is interesting to note that the mere idea of Reincarnation is no longer regarded in the West— at least by educated people—as absurd... Regarding it myself as, to me, a proven fact, I am concerned rather to put it forward on these pages as a probable hypothesis, throwing more light than does any other theory on the obscure problems of man's constitution, of his character, his evolution, and his destiny. Reincarnation and Karma are said by a Master [of Wisdom] to be the two doctrines of which the West stands most in. need; so it cannot be ill done for a believer in the Masters to set forth an outline, for the ordinary reader, of this central teaching of the Esoteric Philosophy.
    - Annie Wood Besant, in *Reincarnation,* (http://www.anandgholap.net/Reincarnation-AB.htm), p. 8, (1892)

Birth must be followed by death and death must be followed by birth. ~The Bhagavad Gita

- The theory of Reincarnation, then, in the Esoteric Philosophy, asserts the existence of a living and individualised Principle, which dwells in and informs the body of a man, and Which, on the death of the body, passes into another body, after a longer or shorter interval. Thus successive bodily lives are linked together like pearls strung upon a thread, the thread being the living Principle, the pearls upon it the separate human lives... In the light of reincarnation life... becomes the school of the eternal Man within us, who seeks therein his development, the Man that was and is and shall be, for whom the hour will never strike.
    - Annie Wood Besant, in *Reincarnation,* (http://www.anandgholap.net/Reincarnation-AB.htm) (1892)

- Another precept of Jesus... is: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect". (S. Matt., v, 48.) The ordinary Christian knows that he cannot possibly obey this command; full of ordinary human frailties and weaknesses, how can he become perfect as God is perfect ? Seeing the impossibility of the achievement set before him, he quietly puts it aside, and thinks no more about it. But seen as the crowning effort of (reincarnation|many lives) of steady improvement, as the triumph of the God within us over the lower nature, it comes within calculable distance... p. 55
    - Annie Wood Besant, in *Esoteric Christianity or, The Lesser Mysteries*, by Annie Besant, (https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/gutbook/lookup?num=26938) (1914)

- The loss of belief in reincarnation, and of a sane view as to the continuity of life, whether it were spent in this or in the next two worlds, brought with it various incongruities and indefensible assertions, among them the blasphemous and terrible idea of the eternal torture of the human soul for sins committed during the brief span of one life spent on earth. p. 307
    - Annie Wood Besant, in *Esoteric Christianity, or The Lesser Mysteries*, by Annie Besant, (1914)

- The great philosopher Plato wrote an allegory in the last book of his *Republic* about souls making themselves ready to come back to earth again. Each one, he said, had a choice as to when and where to be born, but that choice must always be in accord with the soul's capacities and needs. So it is really a matter of being drawn naturally to the environment best suited to the soul, as provided by parents, family, and nation.
  It would, however, be a mistake to think that one who held reincarnation to be true would therefore judge men by their environments - a pleasant environment meaning that they were "good souls," and an unpleasant one meaning that they were "bad souls." The greatest of men often take upon themselves the most difficult and apparently unrewarding tasks for reasons which they themselves must understand much more clearly than can those around them. So it might be for souls who are resting between births: some souls might be drawn to a very difficult family situation and take up such a burden, knowingly.
  If there is a soul in man, assuredly it does not think in terms of physical wealth or personal ambition, nor care about what the short-sighted part of man's nature calls success or failure.
    - H.P. Blavatsky in *What is death?* (https://www.teozofija.info/Blavatsky_What_is_death.htm) (~1888)

If men are reborn, it would... be impossible to expect an entirely new body to retain and give expression to the details recorded by a different physical brain... The idea suggested by reincarnation is that the soul, not the brain, continues to live. ~ H.P. Blavatsky

- Some people have felt that they could not consider seriously the possibility of reincarnation because they do not remember their past lives... If men are reborn, it would, as a matter of fact, be impossible to expect an entirely new body to retain and give expression to the details recorded by a different physical brain...
  The idea suggested by reincarnation is that the soul, not the brain, continues to live. And what is a "soul"? If the word has any meaning at all, it must stand for those unique qualities of character which distinguish us, far more than any physical differences, from our fellow human beings. And our most important qualities do not depend upon the memory of the brain. Our most important qualities are our attitudes of mind, formed through experience provided by brain, yet retained as moral instincts rather than as specific memories.
    - H.P. Blavatsky in *What is death?* (https://www.teozofija.info/Blavatsky_What_is_death.htm) (~1888)

- Those who hold the idea of reincarnation in their minds see that it brings them calm, and that the idea is sensible. Death is neither to be feared nor envied. The "dead" are neither greater nor less than those of us who are now alive. The dead will live again and we shall die again always the same real persons which we make ourselves, yet always expressing different parts of our natures in different states and conditions of consciousness. It is moreover possible to think that we may be reunited with those we have loved, when there is a strong enough reason for this occurring; and that we may be born in the sort of environment which will help us to find each other again in another life.
    - H.P. Blavatsky in *What is death?* (https://www.teozofija.info/Blavatsky_What_is_death.htm) (~1888)

C

- The principal point of their [Druids] doctrine is that the soul does not die and that after death it passes from one body into another.

- Julius Caesar on Druids, in Encyclopaedia of Sects and Religious Doctrines (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=MoU8vUJyrKYC&pg=PA395), p. 395

- With regard to their actual course of studies, the main object of all education is, in their opinion, to imbue their scholars with a firm belief in the indestructibility of the human soul, which, according to their belief, merely passes at death from one tenement to another; for by such doctrine alone, they say, which robs death of all its terrors, can the highest form of human courage be developed.
  - Julius Caesar on Druids in World Religions and the New Era of Science (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=-2spsCiwD5kC&pg=PT172), quoted by Jarnail Singh, p. 172

- I must confess that there was a time earlier in this present life when I blandly assumed that at least some persons might attain to this high pinnacle in one short life. But I had serious doubts about my own ability to make it. In those days I had no conscious understanding of reincarnation. So when I read Jesus' startling statement in Matt. 5:48:*You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect,* I was deeply troubled by what seemed to be an unreasonable demand; something impossible of attainment. Now I realize that He was referring indirectly to rebirth, so that we have whatever number of lives we need to achieve that high standard of perfection
  - Howard Ray Carey in *He who has ears to hear, Howard Ray Carey* (https://www.share-international.org/archives/AgelessWisdom/the_joy/25ears2hear.html)

- In *The Masters and the Path*, C. W. Leadbeater has an interesting discussion of the three 'fetters' which the first degree initiate must 'cast off' before he is prepared for the Baptism initiation. The first of these fetters is the delusion of the separate self. This has to be replaced by the realization of oneness in the true Self. The second fetter is the glamour of doubt or uncertainty, especially in relation to the truth of reincarnation and karma, or the law of cause and effect. The third fetter is described as superstition, or the belief that the rites and dogma of any one religion are necessary for salvation, or that we have to deal with the so-called 'wrath of an angry God'.
  - Howard Ray Carey, in *The Joy of Christ's Coming: From Traditional Religion To Ageless Wisdom (1988)*, Ch. 32, The second initiation in the Bible, (1988)

- If he came back, Carville said: I used to think if there was reincarnation, I wanted to come back as the president or the pope or a .400 baseball hitter. But I now want to comeback as the bond market. You can intimidate everybody.
  - James Carville noting the power of the bond market during Clinton administration, quoted in Systemic Liquidity Risk and Bipolar Markets: Wealth Management in Today's ... (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=Xa68Z0He1tYC&pg=PA147), p. 147

- We travel with the same clan over and over again, from one life to the next, until some ultimate purpose is fulfilled and we no longer need to return. When we Illuminate the road back to our ancestors, they have a way of reaching out, of manifesting themselves...sometimes even physically.
  - Raquel Cepeda, in Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=bly9AgAAQBAJ&pg=PR13), p. xiii

- No; I don't see any mechanism that would make it possible. However, I'm always paraphrasing J.B.S. Haldane, "The universe is not only stranger than we imagine, it's stranger than we can imagine."

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All souls incarnate and re-incarnate under the Law of Rebirth. Hence each life is not only a recapitulation of life experience, but an assuming of ancient obligations, a recovery of old relations, an opportunity for the paying of old indebtedness, a chance to make restitution and progress, an awakening of deep-seated qualities, the recognition of old friends and enemies, the solution of revolting injustices, and the explanation of that which conditions the man, and makes him what he is. Such is the law which is crying now for universal recognition.
~Alice Bailey

- Arthur C. Clarke when asked about reincarnation, Arthur C. Clarke On Life (http://archive.wired.com/wired/archive/1.03/clarke_pr.html)

- One of the great tragedies of our present outlook on existence is our attitude to that recurring event which we call death. We approach it, for the most part, with fear and loathing, seeking by every means to resist its call, prolonging, often beyond its usefulness, the activity of the physical body as a guarantee of "life." Our dread of death is the dread of the unknown, of complete and utter dissolution, of being "no more." Despite the vast amount of evidence gathered over the years by the many Spiritualist groups that life of some kind continues after death; despite the intellectual acceptance by many that death is but an awakening into new and freer life; in spite of the growing belief in reincarnation, and notwithstanding the testimony of the wisest Teachers down the ages, we continue to approach that great transition with fear and trepidation.
  What makes this attitude so tragic is that it is so far from the reality, the source of so much unnecessary suffering. Our fear of death is our fear that our identity will be obliterated. It is this which terrifies. Did we but realize and experience our identity as an immortal Being which cannot die or be obliterated, our fear of death would vanish.
  - Benjamin Creme in *Maitreya's Mission Vol 1*, p. 250, (1986)

- It seems obvious that a true realization of the implications of reincarnation (and not simply an intellectual acceptance) will transform the whole Western approach to reality. The idea that life is not short, brutish and arbitrary; that there is purpose and plan; that we are undergoing a process of gradual perfectionment; above all that the great Law of Cause and Effect governs our existence, must change our viewpoint. The need for right human relationships, for harmlessness, will become abundantly clear.
  - Benjamin Creme in *Maitreya's Mission Vol 1*, p. 271, (1986)

- Is it of value to know our past lives? After a certain point: yes. Before that point, not only is it not of major value, it can actually be dangerous. There is a little-known law that when we become truly aware of our past life we enter into the karma of that time. Most of us have a heavy enough load of karma to deal with in this life without an unnecessary load from some previous one.
  - Benjamin Creme in *Reincarnation, karma and past lives, Share International* (https://www.share-international.org/archives/AgelessWisdom/aw_bcreincarn.htm)

The loss of belief in reincarnation, and of a sane view as to the continuity of life, whether it were spent in this or in the next two worlds, brought with it various incongruities and indefensible assertions, among them the blasphemous and terrible idea of the eternal torture of the human soul for sins committed during the brief span of one life spent on earth. ~ Annie Besant

- Evolutionary progress is based on the process of rebirth; reincarnation is the method of our evolution of consciousness... through two great Laws: the Law of Rebirth and the Law of Cause and Effect... very simply the process by which you reap what you sow... The effects from our previous deeds, good and bad, create the conditions of our life today, and the results of our deeds today create the conditions of the next period... Once you are a human being, you go on being a human being until you become a superhuman being, a Master... Everybody has incarnations as both men and women. Not necessarily alternately, you might have two or three incarnations as a man, and then three or four as a woman, then one or two as a man, and so on.... There is no escape until you have learned to be perfect... in the sense that the Masters are perfect, which is having complete control of your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual nature.
  - Benjamin Creme in *The Ageless Wisdom, An Introduction to Humanity's Spiritual Legacy* (https://share-international.org/books_AWT.html) (June 1996)

- If you really believe in reincarnation, if it is part of your consciousness — rather than an idea which you think is reasonable to accept — if you take it quite seriously, it removes the fear of death to a large extent.
  - Benjamin Creme in *The Ageless Wisdom, An Introduction to Humanity's Spiritual Legacy* (https://share-international.org/books_AWT.html) (June 1996)
- It takes hundreds of thousands of incarnational experiences (lifetimes) to come up to the first initiation, the first of five (necessary to become a Master). Usually, it takes an average of seven or eight incarnations between the first and second initiation. Between the second and third the whole process speeds up... So, there are very few lives in the last phase of the initiatory process, but up to the first initiation there are literally hundreds of thousands of incarnations.... [My] Information about reincarnation comes largely from two sources: the Hierarchy of Masters, through disciples like H. P. Blavatsky and Alice Bailey, whose information always stresses the large number (hundreds of thousands) of incarnational experiences necessary to complete the course of evolution on this planet.
  - Benjamin Creme in [*Maitreya's Mission, Vol. III, Share International*,] (1997) p. 592/3

ANNIE BESANT

There is, of course, no doubt that the great historical religions of the East included the teaching of Reincarnation as a fundamental tenet. In India, as in Egypt, Reincarnation was at the root of ethics. Among the Jews it was held commonly by the Pharisees, and the popular belief comes out in various phrases in the New Testament, as when John the Baptist is regarded as a reincarnation of Elijah or as when the disciples ask whether the man born blind is suffering for the sin of his parents or for some former sin of his own... ~ Annie Besant

D

- Death has no power the immortal soul to slay, That, when its present body turns to clay, Seeks a fresh home, and with unlessened might Inspires another frame with life and light.
  - John Dryden, quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda.
- Poem on Pythagoras
  Death, so called, is but older matter dressed
  In some new form. And in a varied vest,
  From tenement to tenement though tossed,
  The soul is still the same, the figure only lost.
  - Dryden, in Ovid quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda.
- Reincarnation is an intrinsic part of many Native American and Inuit traditions.
  - Heinz Duthel, in Kathoey Ladyboy (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=77i3ohobMgYC&pg=PA239), p. 239
- Indian discussion of reincarnation enters the historical record from about the 6th century BCE, with the development of the Advaita Vedanta tradition in the early Upanishads (around the middle of the first millennium BCE), Gautama Buddha (623–543 BCE)[28] as well as Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.
- Heinz Duthel, in Kathoey Ladyboy (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=77i3ohobMgYC&pg=PA216), p. 216
- The systematic attempt to attain first-hand knowledge of past lives has been developed in various ways in different places. The early Buddhist texts discuss techniques for recalling previous births, predicated on the development of high levels of meditative concentration.

- Heinz Duthel, in Kathoey Ladyboy (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=77i3ohobMgYC&pg=PA216), p. 216

E

- In the Vedic tradition, the belief in first reincarnation and then a 'karmic' connection between the successive incarnations is clearly a later import. It is absent from the Rg-Veda, and its introduction from outside is explicitly mentioned in Chandogya Upanishad 5:5:7. ... The old Upanishads are concerned with defeating Avidya (metaphysical ignorance, confusing the Self with its objects of experience), not with ending the cycle of rebirth, as Buddhism is.
  - Elst, Koenraad (2012). *The argumentative Hindu.* New Delhi : Aditya Prakashan. 118-9
- The soul comes from without into the human body, as into a temporary abode, and it goes out of it anew... it passes into other habitations, for the soul is immortal.
  - Ralph Waldo Emerson, in In the Beauty of the Lilies: A Love Story That Opens Doors to Spiritual Values (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=bS0BbUeAdRUC&pg=PA56), p. 56

F

- I'd rather believe in reincarnation than hell. The idea of an afterlife is much so more tolerable when returning is an option.
  - Deborah Feldman, in Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=VD9Y4DZ5b08C&pg=PA105), p. 105
- The second half of the first millennium BCE was the period that created many of the ideological and institutional elements that characterize later Indian religions. The renouncer tradition played a central role during this formative period of Indian religious history.
  - Gavin Flood, in The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=LexraSEgRfIC&printsec=frontcover), p. 273
- ....Some of the fundamental values and beliefs that we generally associate with Indian religions in general and Hinduism in particular were in part the creation of the renouncer tradition. These include the two pillars of Indian theologies: *samsara* – the belief that life in this world is one of suffering and subject to repeated deaths and births (rebirth); moksha/nirvana – the goal of human existence, and therefore, of the religious quest is the search of liberation from that life of suffering.
  - Gavin Flood, in “The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism”, p. 273
- A third alternative is that the origin of transmigration theory lies outside of Vedic or Sramana traditions in the tribal religions of the Ganges valley, or even in Dravidian traditions of South India.

Those who hold the idea of reincarnation in their minds see that it brings them calm, and that the idea is sensible. Death is neither to be feared nor envied. ~H.P. Blavatsky

The principal point of their [Druids] doctrine is that the soul does not die and that after death it passes from one body into another. ~Julius Caesar

- Gavin Flood, in An Introduction to Hinduism (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=KpIWhKnYmF0C&pg=PA86), p. 86

- I adopted the theory of Reincarnation when I was twenty six. Religion offered nothing to the point. Even work could not give me complete satisfaction. Work is futile if we cannot utilise the experience we collect in one life in the next. When I discovered Reincarnation it was as if I had found a universal plan. I realised that there was a chance to work out my ideas. Time was no longer limited. I was no longer a slave to the hands of the clock. Genius is experience. Some seem to think that it is a gift or talent, but it is the fruit of long experience in many lives. Some are older souls than others, and so they know more. The discovery of Reincarnation put my mind at ease. If you preserve a record of this conversation, write it so that it puts men's minds at ease. I would like to communicate to others the calmness that the long view of life gives to us.

  - Henry Ford, Interview in the *San Francisco Examiner* (26 August 1928), this quotation is also in *The Big Book of Reincarnation: Examining the Evidence that We Have All Lived* ... (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=EJcFIigYVGIC&pg=PT121), p. 121

- I believe we are reincarnated. You, I, we reincarnate over and over. We live many lives, and store up much experience. Some are older souls than others and so they know more. It seems to be an intuitive "gift." It is really hard-won experience.

  - Henry Ford, in The Power that Wins: Henry Ford and Ralph Waldo Trine in an Intimate Talk on Life--the Inner Thing--the Things of the Mind and Spirit--and the Inner Powers and Forces that Make for Achievement (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=7OYtAAAAYAAJ), p. 18

- I realised that there was a chance to work out my ideas. **Time was no longer limited. I was no longer a slave to the hands of the clock. Genius is experience. Some seem to think that it is a gift or talent, but it is the fruit of long experience in many lives. Some are older souls than others, and so they know more. The discovery of Reincarnation put my mind at ease. If you preserve a record of this conversation, write it so that it puts men's minds at ease. I would like to communicate to others the calmness that the long view of life gives to us.**

  - Henry Ford, in The Buddhism Primer: an Introduction to Buddhism, p. 46

So when I read Jesus' startling statement in Matt. 5:48:You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect, I was deeply troubled by what seemed to be an unreasonable demand; something impossible of attainment. Now I realize that He was referring indirectly to rebirth, so that we have whatever number of lives we need to achieve that high standard of perfection. ~Howard Ray Carey

- So the Buddhist teachings of rebirth does have some scientific evidence to support it. It is logically consistent and it goes a long way in answering questions what the theistic and the materialistic theories fail to . It is also very comforting. What can be worse than a theory of life that gives you no second chance, no opportunity to amend the mistakes you have made in this life and no time to further develop the skills and abilities you have nurtured in this life. But according to the Buddha, if you fail to attain Nirvana in this life, you will have the opportunity to try again next time. If you have made mistakes in this life, you will be able to correct yourself in the next life. You will truly be able to learn from your mistakes. Things you were unable to do or achieve in this life may well become possible in the next life. What a wonderful teaching!

  - Henry Ford, in The Buddhism Primer : an Introduction to Buddhism (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=qn1byF7fjFAC&pg=PA46), p. 46

G

- Each night, when I go to sleep, I die. And the next morning, when I wake up, I am reborn.
  - Mahatma Gandhi, in Standing in the Sun (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=b_TPcsFgGfAC&pg=PA79). p. 79
- Birth must be followed by death and death must be followed by birth.
  - Bhagavat Gita, in "Reincarnation" quoted by Swami Abhedananda
- The pain was maddening. You should pray to God when you're dying, if you can pray when you're in agony. In my dream I didn't pray to God, I thought of Roger and how dearly I loved him. The pain of those wicked flames was not half so bad as the pain I felt when I knew he was dead. I felt suddenly glad to be dying. I didn't know when you were burnt to death you'd bleed. I thought the blood would all dry up in the terrible heat. But I was bleeding heavily. The blood was dripping and hissing in the flames. I wished I had enough blood to put the flames out. The worst part was my eyes. I hate the thought of going blind. It's bad enough when I'm awake but in dreams you can't shake the thoughts away. They remain. In this dream I was going blind. I tried to close my eyelids but I couldn't. They must have been burnt off, and now those flames were going to pluck my eyes out with their evil fingers, I didn't want to go blind. The flames weren't so cruel after all. They began to feel cold. Icy cold. It occurred to me that I wasn't burning to death but freezing to death.
  - Arthur Guirdham in *The Cathars and Reincarnation*, p. 89

It takes hundreds of thousands of incarnational experiences (lifetimes) to come up to the first initiation... ~ Benjamin Creme

H

- It was also believed that snakes swallowed themselves, and this resulted in their being considered emblematic of the Supreme Creator who periodically reabsorbed His Universe back to Himself.
  - Manly Palmer Hall, in http://books.google.co.in/books?id=huKHs2x2pfQC&pg=PA213 The Secret Teachings of All Ages], p. 213
- He saw all these forms and faces in a thousand relationships... become newly born. Each one was mortal, a passionate, painful example of all that is transitory. Yet none of them died, they only changed, were always reborn, continually had a new face: only time stood between one face and another.
  - Herman Hesse, in Postmodernity and Cross-culturalism (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=vwf9AogWNIoC&pg=PA67), p. 67
- Members of the Christian faith sometimes object to the doctrine of reincarnation on the grounds that to accept it would be a violation of Christian doctrine. While it is true that a Council of Constantinople in the sixth century A. D. pronounced belief in the pre-existence of the soul to be heretical, an examination of the Scriptures strongly suggests that the doctrine of rebirth was generally accepted in those days and that Our Lord himself believed it. Whether this be the case or not, the student of the Christian doctrine may well ask whether a decision made by a group of men in the sixth century should be regarded as binding today.
  - Geoffrey Hodson in *Reincarnation & Christianity,* (https://www.theosophical.org/files/resources/articles/ReincarnationChristianity.pdf) (1967)

- This objection to reincarnation by Christians, on grounds of doctrinal fidelity, is sufficiently important to merit a somewhat detailed examination. From this it is found that reincarnation has neither been proclaimed nor condemned by any general council of the Church or by any creed accepted by a general council. The Council of Constantinople held in 543 A.D., which proclaimed heretical Origen's teaching of the preexistence of the soul and affirmed the doctrine of special creation, was not a general council, and so not universally authoritative. It was a local and not an ecumenical council or synod. Furthermore, it did not condemn reincarnation but only pre-existence, which has nothing to do with rebirth.
    - Geoffrey Hodson in *Reincarnation & Christianity,* (https://www.theosophical.org/files/resources/articles/ReincarnationChristianity.pdf) (1967)

There is no escape until you have learned to be perfect... in the sense that the Masters are perfect, which is having complete control of your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual nature. ~Benjamin Creme

- Origen taught that all souls were created at the beginning of creation as angelic spirits. In this condition they sinned and for their apostasy were transferred into material bodies. It was this view of preexistence which was proclaimed heretical. In any case, heresy thus condemned so long ago need not be regarded today as of major importance. Truth matters a great deal more and a condemned heresy may turn out to be a truth, as happened, for example, when a local church of Rome condemned Galileo's heliocentric doctrine and forced him to recant. Galileo was right and the church in question was wrong. It is therefore quite legitimate for both clergy and laity of the Christian faith to preach and believe in both preexistence and reincarnation.
    - Geoffrey Hodson in *Reincarnation & Christianity,* (https://www.theosophical.org/files/resources/articles/ReincarnationChristianity.pdf) (1967)

Reincarnation is an intrinsic part of many Native American and Inuit traditions.~Heinz Duthel

- Reference has already been made to the command given by Christ to his followers: "*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*" (Matt. 5:48). If man is granted but one life in which to accomplish this perfection, such attainment would be an impossibility for almost every human being; and Our Lord would have presented to mankind an ideal which is impossible of fulfillment. Since his wisdom was perfect, it is extremely unlikely that he would have taken this course. If, however, each man is granted almost unlimited time and every needed opportunity throughout successive lives in which to reach the goal which is set for him, then Our Lord's words are less an injunction than a description of the destiny of every man. Indeed, in the original Greek and in the Revised Version, the behest becomes a simple statement of fact: *"Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*
    - Geoffrey Hodson in *Reincarnation & Christianity,* (https://www.theosophical.org/files/resources/articles/ReincarnationChristianity.pdf) (1967)
- I am certain that I have been here as I am now a thousand times before, and I hope to return a thousand times.
    - Thmos Huxley, in The Big Book of Reincarnation: Examining the Evidence that We Have All Lived ... (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=EJcFIigYVGIC&pg=PT122), p. 122
- There is nothing against a permanently surviving spirit-individuality being in some way given off at death, as a definite wireless message is given off by a sending apparatus working in a particular ways. But it must be remembered that the wireless message only becomes a message again when it comes in contact with a new, material structure - the receiver. So with our possible spirit-emanation. It would never think or feel unless again "embodied" in some way. Our personalities are so based on body that it is really impossible to think of survival which would be in

any true sense personal without a body of sorts. I can think of something being given off which could bear the same relation to men and women as a wireless message to the transmitting apparatus for mind.

  - Professor Julian Huxley, in The Buddhism Primer : an Introduction to Buddhism (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=qn1byF7fjFAC&pg=PA45), p. 45

- In the doctrine of transmigration, whatever its origin, Brahmanical and Buddhist speculation found, ready to hand, the means of constructing a plausible vindication of the ways of the Cosmos to man....yet this plea of justification is not less plausible than others; and none but very hasty thinkers will reject it on the ground of inherent absurdity. Like the doctrine of evolution itself, that of transmigration has its roots in the world of reality; and it may claim such support as the great argument from analogy is capable of supplying.

  - Thomas Huxley, in “The Buddhism Primer: an Introduction to Buddhism” p. 45

The soul comes from without into the human body, as into a temporary abode, and it goes out of it anew... it passes into other habitations, for the soul is immortal. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

I

- That swarm of ants that I observed, each one following the one ahead, have every one been Indra in the world of the gods by virtue of their own past action. And now, by virtue of their deeds done in the past, they have gradually fallen to the state of ants.

  - Krsna, *Indra and the Ants* Indra and the Ants (https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1439904642), *Classical Hindu Mythology: A Reader in the Sanskrit Puranas*, Pg. 321 by Cornelia Dimmitt

- We may subvert their doctrine as to transmigration from body to body by this fact, that souls remember nothing whatever of the events which took place in their previous states of existence. For if they were sent forth with this object, that they should have experience of every kind of action, they must of necessity retain a remembrance of those things which have been previously accomplished, that they might fill up those in which they were still deficient, and not by always hovering, without intermission, round the same pursuits, spend their labour wretchedly in vain... As it happens that, when one awakes, perhaps after a long time, he relates what he saw in a dream, so also would he undoubtedly remember those things which he did before he came into this particular body. For if that which is seen only for a very brief space of time, or has been conceived of simply in a phantasm, and by the soul alone, through means of a dream, is remembered... much more would she remember those things in connection with which she stayed during so long a time, even throughout the whole period of a bypast life.

  - St. Irenaeus, *Against Heresies (Book II, Chapter 33)* (https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0103233.htm), 1.

J

- Jains believe in reincarnation. Their souls, which are believed to be a unique substance in the universe, take different living forms in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. This cycle has been going on forever, the universe has no beginning or end, it has always been and always will be. The ultimate goal is to get rid of one's karma on their soul so that they may end this cycle. Once this goal is reached their soul has attained all knowledge and it rests in the heavens forever (Nirvana).

  - Jainism, in *General Facts About Jainism* (http://www.umich.edu/~umjains/overview.html)

- The essential metaphysical ideas of Jainism are nine cardinal principles. The universe is divided into that which is alive and conscious (*jiva*) and matter which is not (*ajiva*). *Jivas* (souls) are either caught by karma (action) in the world of reincarnation *(samsara)* or liberated (*mukta*) and perfected (*siddha*).
  - Jainism, in *Bhagavan Mahavira and Jain Dharma* (http://www.digambarjainonline.com/dharma/bmjd.htm.)
- If it can be shown that an incorporeal and reasonable being has life in itself independently of the body and that it is worse off in the body than out of it; then beyond a doubt bodies are only of secondary importance and arise from time to time to meet the varying conditions of reasonable creatures. Those who require bodies are clothed with them, and contrariwise, when fallen souls have lifted themselves up to better things, their bodies are once more annihilated. They are thus ever vanishing and ever reappearing.
  - This is St. Jerome's translation of a passage written by Origen. Jerome considered it a "convincing proof" that Origen taught reincarnation:quoted in *Get The Church Fathers And More...* (http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3001124.htm), para 15
- I am no Hindu, but I hold the doctrine of the Hindus concerning a future state (rebirth) to be incomparably more rational, more pious, and more likely to deter men from vice than the horrid opinions inculcated by Christians on punishments without end.
  - William Jones, in Jesus Taught It Too: The Early Roots of the Law of Attraction (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=57tHwDjguRcC&pg=PA107), p. 107
- How man has come to be the complex being that he is and why, are questions that neither Science nor Religion makes conclusive answer to. This immortal thinker having such vast powers and possibilities, all his because of his intimate connection with every secret part of Nature from which he has been built up, stands at the top of an immense and silent evolution. He asks why Nature exists, what the drama of life has for its aim, how that aim may be attained. But Science and Religion both fail to give a reasonable reply. Science does not pretend to be able to give the solution, saying that the examination of things as they are is enough of a task; religion offers an explanation both illogical and unmeaning and acceptable but to the bigot, as it requires us to consider the whole of Nature as a mystery and to seek for the meaning and purpose of life with all its sorrow in the pleasure of a God who cannot be found out. The educated and enquiring mind knows that dogmatic religion can only give an answer invented by man while it pretends to be from God.
  - William Quan Judge in: *The Ocean of Theosophy* (1893), Chapter 8 (https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/ocean/oce-8.htm)
- What then is the universe for, and for what final purpose is man the immortal thinker here in evolution? It is all for the experience and emancipation of the soul, for the purpose of raising the entire mass of manifested matter up to the stature, nature, and dignity of conscious god-hood. The great aim is to reach self-consciousness; not through a race or a tribe or some favored nation, but by and through the perfecting, after transformation, of the whole mass of matter as well as what we now call soul. Nothing is or is to be left out.
  - William Quan Judge in: *The Ocean of Theosophy* (1893), Chapter 8 (https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/ocean/oce-8.htm)
- The aim for present man is his initiation into complete knowledge, and for the other kingdoms below him that they may be raised up gradually from stage to stage to be in time initiated also. This is evolution carried to its highest power; it is a magnificent prospect; it makes of man a god,

These include the two pillars of Indian theologies: *samsara* – the belief that life in this world is one of suffering and subject to repeated deaths and births (rebirths) moksha/nirvana – the goal of human existence, and therefore, of the religious quest is the search of liberation from that life of suffering. ~ Gavin Flood.

and gives to every part of nature the possibility of being one day the same; there is strength and nobility in it, for by this no man is dwarfed and belittled, for no one is so originally sinful that he cannot rise above all sin. Treated from the materialistic position of Science, evolution takes in but half of life; while the religious conception of it is a mixture of nonsense and fear. Present religions keep the element of fear, and at the same time imagine that an Almighty being can think of no other earth but this and has to govern this one very imperfectly. But the old theosophical view makes the universe a vast, complete, and perfect whole.

  - William Quan Judge in: *The Ocean of Theosophy* (1893), Chapter 8 (https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/ocean/oce-8.htm)

- This is the most ancient of doctrines and is believed in now by more human minds than the number of those who do not hold it. The millions in the East almost all accept it; it was taught by the Greeks; a large number of the Chinese now believe it as their forefathers did before them; the Jews thought it was true, and it has not disappeared from their religion; and Jesus, who is called the founder of Christianity, also believed and taught it. In the early Christian church it was known and taught, and the very best of the fathers of the church believed and promulgated it.

  - William Quan Judge in: *The Ocean of Theosophy* (1893), Chapter 8 (https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/ocean/oce-8.htm)

- In the case of the musician Bach we have proof that heredity counts for nothing if the Ego is not advanced, for his genius was not borne down his family line; it gradually faded out, finally leaving the family stream entirely. So, too, the coming of idiots or vicious children to parents who are good, pure, or highly intellectual is explained in the same way. They are cases where heredity is set at nought by a wholly bad or deficient Ego.

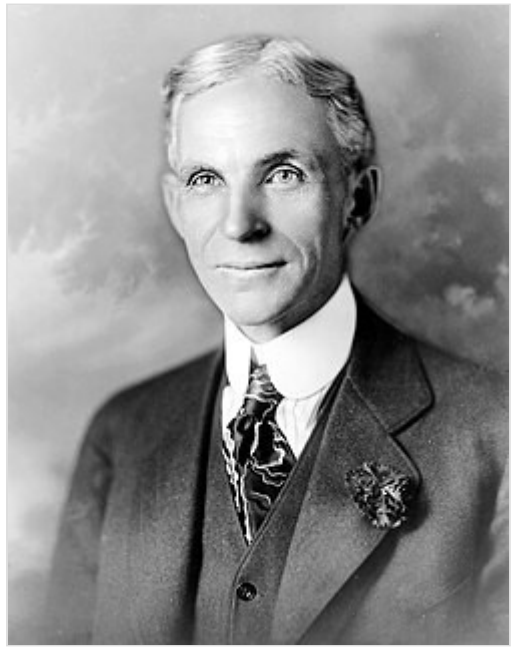
  - William Quan Judge In: *The Ocean of Theosophy* (1893), Chapter 10 (https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/ocean/oce-10.htm)

- **The lost chord of Christianity is the doctrine of Reincarnation.** It was beyond doubt taught in the early days of the cult, for it was well known to the Jews who produced the men who founded Christianity. The greatest of all the Fathers of the Church--Origen--no doubt believed in the doctrine. He taught pre-existence and the wandering of the soul. This could hardly have been believed without also giving currency to reincarnation, as the soul could scarcely wander in any place save the earth. She was in exile from Paradise, and for sins committed had to revolve and wander. Wander where? would be the next question. Certainly away from Paradise, and the short span of human life would not meet the requirements of the case. But a series of reincarnations will meet all the problems of life as well as the necessities of the doctrines of exile, of wanderings for purification, of being known to God and being judged by him before birth, and of other dogmas given out among the Jews and of course well known to Jesus and whoever of the seventy-odd disciples were not in the deepest ignorance

  - William Q. Judge in *Reincarnation In Judaism And The Bible* (https://www.blavatsky.net/index.php/reincarnation-in-judaism-and-the-bible) (1894)

- It has been often thought that the opposition to reincarnation has been solely based on prejudice, when not due to a dogma which can only stand when the mind is bound down and prevented from using its

I adopted the theory of Reincarnation when I was twenty six. Religion offered nothing to the point. Even work could not give me complete satisfaction. Work is futile if we cannot utilize the experience we collect in one life in the next. When I discovered reincarnation it was as if I had found a universal plan. ~Henry Ford



You, I, we reincarnate over and over. We live many lives, and store up much experience. Some are older souls than others and so they know more. It seems to be an intuitive "gift." It is really hard-won experience. ~Henry Ford

own powers. It is a doctrine the most noble of all, and with its companion one of Karma, next to be considered, it alone gives the basis for ethics. There is no doubt in my mind that the founder of Christianity took it for granted and that its present absence from that religion is the reason for the contradiction between the professed ethics of Christian nations and their actual practises which are so contrary to the morals given out by Jesus.

  - William Quan Judge *On Reincarnation* (http://www.theosophy-nw.org/theosnw/reincar/re-wqj2.htm)

- It should be ever borne in mind that Patanjali had no need to assert or enforce the doctrine of reincarnation. That is assumed all through the Aphorisms. That it could be doubted, or need any restatement, never occurred to him, and by us it is alluded to, not because we have the smallest doubt of its truth, but only because we see about us those who never heard of such a doctrine, who, educated under the frightful dogmas of Christian priestcraft, imagine that upon quitting this life they will enjoy heaven or be damned eternally, and who not once pause to ask where was their soul before it came into the present body.

  - William Q. Judge, in the Preface to *The Yoga Aphorisms of Patanjali* — interpreted by W. Q. Judge, (1889)

- For esoteric students the concept of rebirth is not an abstract belief based on theory and thus open to debate. For them it is a well-established concept which has been part of the Ancient Wisdom teaching for thousands of years, and has subsequently been verified over and over again in daily life. The principle is primarily based on the duality of man.

  - Aart Juriaanse as quoted in from an excerpt published by (Mindlight) (http://www.mindlight.info/Aart Jurriaanse/aj_rebir.htm)

- Fortunately for man, we do have a loving Father, on whose wisdom and justice we can depend. The shortcoming lies with man himself who can neither understand nor interpret that with which he is surrounded. He can only distinguish one small facet of the Truth and of a most involved system, and therefore bases his judgement on totally inadequate evidence. But where then has man failed in his reasoning? The answer and crux of the whole problem lies in the misleading and erroneous assumption that the evolution and redemption of the human soul must be completed in a single spell of life on Earth.

  - Aart Juriaanse as quoted in from an excerpt published by (Mindlight) (http://www.mindlight.info/Aart Jurriaanse/aj_rebir.htm)

If it can be shown that an incorporeal and reasonable being has life in itself independently of the body and that it is worse off in the body than out of it; then beyond a doubt bodies are only of secondary importance and arise from time to time to meet the varying conditions of reasonable creatures. Those who require bodies are clothed with them... ~Origen

:...when fallen souls have lifted themselves up to better things, their bodies are once more annihilated. They are thus ever vanishing and ever reappearing.~Origen

K

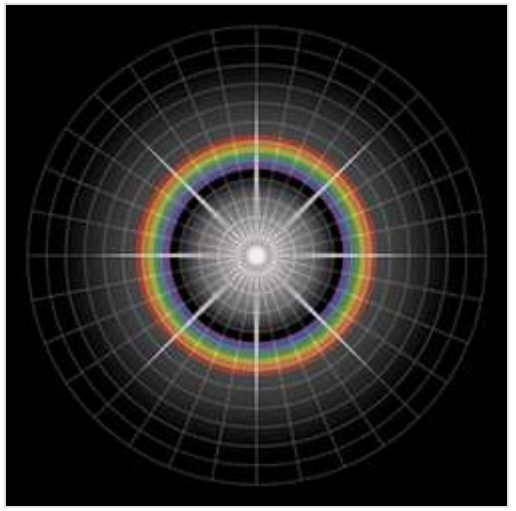
- A master who had been cruel to his slaves might become a slave in his turn, and undergo the torments he had inflicted on others. He who has wielded authority may, in a new existence, be obliged to obey those who formerly bent to his will. Such an existence may be imposed upon him as an expiation if he have abused his power. But a good spirit may also choose an influential existence among the people of some lower race, in order to hasten their advancement; in that case, such a reincarnation is a mission.

- Alan Kardec in *The Spirits' Book*, p. 170.

This is the most ancient of doctrines and is believed in now by more human minds than the number of those who do not hold it. The millions in the East almost all accept it; it was taught by the Greeks; a large number of the Chinese now believe it as their forefathers did before them; the Jews thought it was true, and it has not disappeared from their religion; and Jesus, who is called the founder of Christianity, also believed and taught it. ~William Quan Judge

- Thus far Mrs. Kingsford's idea that the human Ego is being reincarnated in several successive human bodies is the true one... After circling, so to say, along the arc of the cycle, circling along and within it (the daily and yearly rotation of the Earth is as good an illustration as any) when the Spirit-man reaches our planet, which is one of the lowest, having lost at every station some of the etherial and acquired an increase of material nature, both spirit and matter have become pretty much equilibrized in him. But... in the process of involution and evolution downward, matter is ever striving to stifle spirit, when arrived to the lowest point of his pilgrimage, the once pure Planetary Spirit will be found dwindled to — what Science agrees to call a primitive or Primordial man... At that point the great Law begins its work of selection. Matter found entirely divorced from spirit is thrown over into the still lower worlds... matter ground over in the workshop of nature proceeds soulless back to its Mother Fount; while the Egos purified of their dross are enabled to resume their progress... the laggard Egos perish by the millions. It is the solemn moment of the *survival of the fittest* the annihilation of those unfit.
  - The Master Koot Hoomi, in *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, (1923), Letter No. X, p. 47, 1881
- Man No. 1 makes his appearance at the apex of the circle of the spheres on sphere No. 1 after the completion of the seven rounds or periods of the two kingdoms (known to you) and thus he is said to be created on the eighth day (see Bible Chapter II; note verses 5 and 6 and think what is meant there by 'mist,' and verse 7 wherein Law the Universal great fashioner is termed 'God' by Christians and Jews, and understood as Evolution by Cabalists). During this first round 'animal man' runs, as you say, his cycle in a spiral. On the descending arc—whence he starts after the completion of the seventh round of animal life on his own individual seven rounds—he has to enter every sphere not as a lower animal as you understand it but as a lower man. Since during the cycle which preceded his round as a man he performed it as the highest type of animal. Your Lord God, says Bible, chapter I, verse 25 and 26—after having made all said: "Let us make man in our image," etc., and creates man an androgyne ape! (extinct on our planet) the highest intelligence in the animal kingdom and whose descendants you find in the anthropoids of to-day. p. 74
  - The Master Koot Hoomi, in *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, (1923)
- The present mankind is at its fourth round (mankind as a genus or a kind not a race nota bene) of the post-pralayan cycle of evolution; and as its various races, so the individual entities in them are unconsciously to themselves performing their local earthly seven-fold cycles—hence the vast difference in the degree of their intelligence, energy and so on. Now every individuality will be followed on the ascending arc by the law of retribution — Karma and Death accordingly. The perfect man or the entity which reached full perfection (each of his seven principles being matured), will not be re-born here.
  - Koot Hoomi, in *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, , (1923) p. 75
- Who goes to Deva Chan? The personal Ego of course, but beatified, purified, holy. Every Ego [soul] —the combination of the sixth and seventh principles—which, after the period of unconscious gestation is reborn into the Deva-Chan, is of necessity as innocent and pure as a new-born babe. The fact of his being reborn at all, shows the preponderance of good over evil in his old personality. And while the Karma (of evil) steps aside for the time being to follow him in his future earth-reincarnation, he brings along with him but the Karma of his good deeds, words, and thoughts into this Deva-Chan.
  - Koot Hoomi, in *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, (1923) p.100

- From remote times people have been accustomed to fear so-called death. They were always intimidated by hell, and at the same time were not told about the meaning of perfectment. We entrust Our co-workers to repeat as much as they can to people about the great Eternity and the continuity of life (reincarnation)... 44.
    - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane I*, Agni Yoga (1938)



Karma is a beneficent law wholly merciful, relentlessly just, for true mercy is not favor but impartial justice... With reincarnation the doctrine of karma explains the misery and suffering of the world, and no room is left to accuse Nature of injustice. ~William Quan Judge

- One may think that he will be forever attached to one place; another may tell himself that he must always cling to one vocation; a third may convince himself that he cannot endure a change of location; a fourth may imagine that he will perish from his very first illness. Thus each one invents his own fetters, not realizing that in his former lives he has already experienced the many ways of existence. Such a conventional life on Earth, in complete ignorance of the past, does not allow one the opportunity to think about the future.
  Most people leave Earth not realizing that they will have to return again. If they could remember at least something of the past, and learn to think about the future, they would save themselves from many errors. It is not a fear of hell but a desire for perfection that will lead people to the betterment of life.
  We know the past, yet live in the future; We do not fear Infinity, and welcome each advance. The future stands as a great reality, separated from us only by a thin, closed door, and even now is being created by our every breath. When one's consciousness is directed into the future, can one harbor rancor? There is no time for immersion in the past. People should know about the immutable law; it is not for human consciousness to interfere with the Law of Karma. Thus let us learn to fly... 75
    - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane*, Agni Yoga (1938)

- The Teacher did not speak about reincarnation to the people because in His country this truth would not have been understood. Even among the disciples very few could fully comprehend the Law of Reincarnation. Some sects knew about reincarnation, but the idea provoked strong arguments and the majority doubted, just as it doubts today. The Teacher preferred to discuss those subjects that caused arguments with each person individually, for only in this way could he transmit the Truth according to the listener's level of consciousness. 163
    - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane I*, Agni Yoga (1938)

It [Serpent] is the symbol of reincarnation, or metempsychosis, because it annually sheds its skin, reappearing, as it were, in a new body … ~Manly Palmer Hall

- People cannot understand why some great incarnations are followed by seemingly insignificant ones, but who can tell what valuable object must be found during the difficult journey? Often, in the course of general self-perfectment, a small, precious stone is required that seems insignificant, but is of great value. Various incarnations indicate that an important task must be performed for the sake of general evolution. (233)
    - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane I*, Agni Yoga (1938)

- There is an ancient proverb, *Karma is an executioner who guards his victim." In other words, karma will not allow criminals to be destroyed and thus escape their punishment.*
  Indeed, sometimes terrible and obvious evildoers continue to exist, although, humanly speaking, it would seem only just for them to have been destroyed. But is it possible to apply human measures where the Law of Absolute Justice operates? Sometimes the evildoers are punished by prolonged illness or, though in good physical health, become subject to the terrors of psychic unrest.
  One should not think that crime may be excused because of mental imbalance. We should search more deeply and look for causes rooted in

the past. Such a study will clarify the concept of karma. The wise do not fear this law. Generally, humanity can be divided into two groups, those who fear the consequences of karma and those who accept them calmly. Avoid those who fear, for they almost certainly sense the approach of karmic retribution. They may not yet know anything about its effects, but in the depths of the Chalice the long-forgotten viper is rising to the surface.
Mark well the way in which people differ according to their attitude toward the doctrine of reincarnation. Some are able to accept the full justice of this Law, but to others it seems monstrous. Perhaps those who are fearful have vague memories of their previous deeds, and have good reason for their present fears. Thus one can note the division of humanity. (378)

  - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane I*, Agni Yoga (1938)

- The Thinker taught His disciples not to fear the Law of Karma. He said, “The hunter enters the forest with much hope. How else can he set out? Without hope his hunt will not be successful.” (378)

  - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane I*, Agni Yoga (1938)

- One may rightly ask why certain cogent ideas are so slowly assimilated by the human consciousness. For instance, it is astonishing that, despite much proof, the concept of reincarnation is such a difficult doctrine for most people. After all, one should understand that the realization and acceptance of this law by all people would signal an end to chaos, and transform the entire earthly life. Compare those who have accepted this doctrine with those who oppose it, and you will understand who is of Light and who is of Darkness! (388)

  - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane I*, Agni Yoga (1938)

- Indeed, scientists of limited mind can observe heredity only within the context of the family; in other words, within the most narrow limitations. They occasionally do observe those inherited traits that may appear even after several generations. But they cannot make the more sensitive observations, because they do not believe in reincarnation or in the Supermundane World. It is impossible to properly observe man within these narrow, ignorant limitations, but one may hope that science will free itself and will achieve true insights. (929)

  - Koot Hoomi, *Supermundane I*, Agni Yoga (1938)

- Yoruba also believe in reincarnation. The spirits of persons who have lived and died may come back in the new baby, usually to someone in the same family... that with every incarnations the spirit chooses and acquires a new destiny.

  - Winny Koster, in *Secret Strategies: Women and Abortion in Yoruba Society, Nigeria* (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=hdBlWVE0i_QC&pg=PA66), p. 66

- The whole of Asia believes in reincarnation, in being reborn in another life. When you enquire what it is that is going to be born in the next life.

  - Jiddu Krishnamurti, in *Impossible Question, The* (http://www.jkrishnamurti.org/krishnamurti-teachings/view-context.php?tid=9&chid=57014&w=conditioning&s=Context)

It has been often thought that the opposition to reincarnation has been solely based on prejudice, when not due to a dogma which can only stand when the mind is bound down and prevented from using its own powers. It is a doctrine the most noble of all, and with its companion one of Karma, next to be considered, it alone gives the basis for ethics. There is no doubt in my mind that the founder of Christianity took it for granted and that its present absence from that religion is the reason for the contradiction between the professed ethics of Christian nations and their actual practices which are so contrary to the morals given out by Jesus. ~ William Quan Judge

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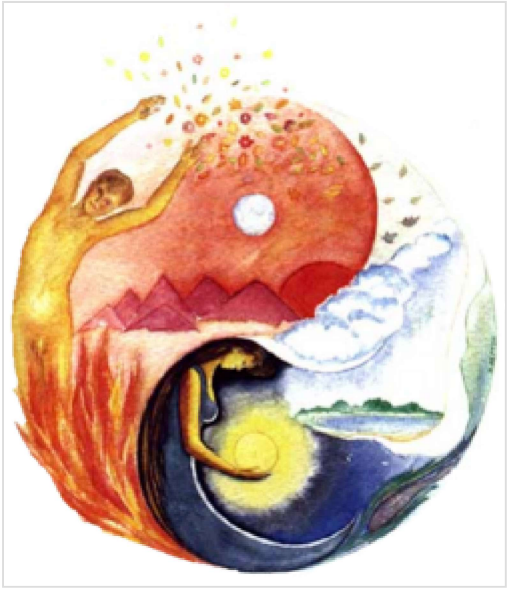


The whole of Asia believes in reincarnation, in being reborn in another life. When you enquire what it is that is going to be born in the next life. ~Jiddu Krishnamurti

- **Every one of us has a long line of... physical lives behind him...** Each of such lives is a day at school. The ego puts upon himself his garment of flesh and goes forth into the school of the physical world to learn certain lessons. He learns them, or does not learn them, or partially learns them, as the case may be, during his school day of earth-life; then he lays aside the vesture of the flesh and returns home to his own level for rest and refreshment. In the morning of each new life he takes up again his lesson at the point where he left it the night before. Some lessons he may be able to learn in one day, while others may take him many days. If he is an apt pupil and learns quickly what is needed, if he obtains an intelligent grasp of the rules of the school, and takes the trouble to adapt his conduct to them, his school-life is comparatively short, and when it is over he goes forth fully equipped into the real life of the higher worlds for which all this is only a preparation... Duller boys who do not learn so quickly... do not understand the rules... and through that ignorance are constantly breaking them... All of these have a longer school-life, and by their own actions they delay their entry upon the real life of the higher worlds.
  - Charles Webster Leadbeater, *A Textbook of Theosophy, Chapter VII* (http://blavatskyarchives.com/theosophypdfs/leadbeater_textbook_of_theosophy_1918.pdf), (1912)
- **This is a school in which no pupil ever fails; every one must go on to the end.** He has no choice as to that; but the length of time which he will take in qualifying himself for the higher examinations is left entirely to his own discretion. The wise pupil, seeing that school-life is not a thing in itself, but only a preparation... endeavours to comprehend as fully as possible the rules of his school, and shapes his life in accordance with them as closely as he can, so that no time may be lost in the learning of whatever lessons are necessary... Theosophy explains to us the laws under which this school-life must be lived, and in that way gives a great advantage to its students. The first great law is that of evolution. Every man has to become a perfect man, to unfold to the fullest degree the divine possibilities which lie latent within him, for that unfoldment is the object of the entire scheme so far as he is concerned.
  - Charles Webster Leadbeater, *A Textbook of Theosophy, Chapter VII*, (1912)
- Theosophy explains to us the laws under which this school-life must be lived, and in that way gives a great advantage to its students. The first great law is that of evolution... The second great law under which this evolution is taking place is the law of cause and effect. There can be no effect without its cause, and every cause must produce its effect. They are in fact not two but one, for the effect is really part of the cause, and he who sets one in motion sets the other also. T**here is in Nature no such idea as that of reward or punishment, but only of cause and effect. Anyone can see this in connection with mechanics or chemistry...**
  - Charles Webster Leadbeater, *A Textbook of Theosophy, Chapter VII* (1912)
- **According to which the man who sends out a good thought or does a good action receives good in return, while the man who sends out an evil thought or does an evil action, receives evil in return with equal accuracy—once more, not in the least a reward or punishment administered by some external will, but simply as the definite and mechanical result of his own activity. The action of this law affords the explanation of a number of the problems of ordinary life. It accounts for the different destinies imposed upon people, and also for the differences in the people themselves. If one man is clever in a certain direction and another is stupid, it is because in a previous life the clever man has devoted much effort to practise in that particular direction, while the stupid man is trying it for the first time.**

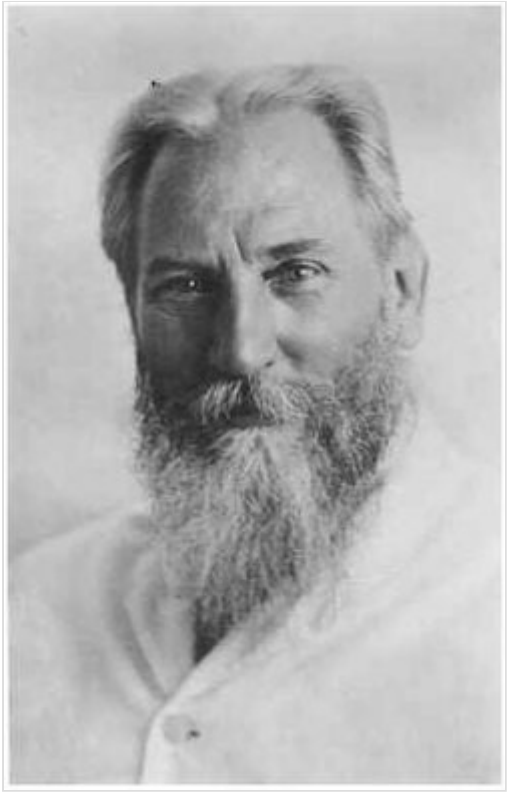
- Charles Webster Leadbeater, *A Textbook of Theosophy, Chapter VII* (1912)

- Another most valuable result of his Theosophical study is the absence of fear. Many people are constantly anxious or worried about something or other; they are fearing lest this or that should happen to them, lest this or that combination may fail, and so all the while they are in a condition of unrest; and most serious of all for many is the fear of death... He realizes the great truth of reincarnation. He knows that he has often before laid aside physical bodies, and so he sees that death is no more than sleep—that just as sleep comes in between our days of work and gives us rest and refreshment, so between these days of labour here on earth, which we call lives, there comes a long night...
  - Charles Webster Leadbeater, *A Textbook of Theosophy, Chapter VII* (1912)

- The Existence of Perfected Men is one of the most important of the many new facts which Theosophy puts before us. It follows logically from the other great Theosophical teachings of karma and evolution by reincarnation. As we look round us we see men obviously at all stages of their evolution—many far below ourselves in development, and others who in one way or another are distinctly in advance of us.
  - Charles Webster Leadbeater, The Masters and the Path (1925) p. 3

- A man came to Him one day, as people in trouble were wont to do, and told him that he had great difficulty with his meditation, which he could scarcely succeed in doing at all. Then the Buddha told him that there was a very simple reason for it—that in a previous life he had foolishly been in the habit of annoying certain holy men and disturbing their meditations. Yet that man may have been more advanced... than some of his companions whose meditations were well done.
  - Charles Webster Leadbeater, The Masters and the Path (1925) p. 188

- Many concepts like reincarnation, meditation, yoga and others have found worldwide acceptance. It would not be surprising to find Hinduism the dominant religion of the twenty-first century. It would be a religion that doctrinally is less clear-cut
  - Sushama Londhe, in Tribute to Hinduism: Thoughts and Wisdom Spanning Continents and Time about India and Her Culture (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=G3AMAQAAMAAJ), p. 254



This is a school in which no pupil ever fails; every one must go on to the end. He has no choice as to that; but the length of time which he will take in qualifying himself for the higher examinations is left entirely to his own discretion. ~Charles Webster Leadbeater

- Dasavatar (ten descendents) is collective name for the ten avatars (incarnations on earth) of the god Vishnu. In each case Vishnu takes form to restore the cosmic equilibrium when it has been thrown out of balance by the action of a particular demon.
  - James G. Lochtefeld, in The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Hinduism: A-M (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=5kl0DYIjUPgC&pg=PA175), p. 175

- I did not begin when I was born, nor when I was conceived. I have been growing, developing, through incalculable myriads of millenniums… All my previous selves have their voices, echoes, promptings in me... Oh, incalculable times again shall I be born.
  - Jack London, in Return Again: How to Find Meaning in Your Past Lives and Your Interlives (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=uhE4AEWtecAC&pg=PT17)]. p. 17

- One day, as Ryan and Cyndi paged through one of the Hollywood books, Ryan stopped at a black-and-white still taken from a 1930s movie, Night After Night. Two men in the center of the picture were confronting one another. Four other men surrounded them. Cyndi didn't recognize

any of the faces, but Ryan pointed to one of the men in the middle. “Hey Mama,” he said. “That’s George. We did a picture together.” His finger then shot over to a man on the right, wearing an overcoat and a scowl. “That guy’s me. I found me!” Ryan’s claims, while rare, are not unique among the more than 2,500 case files sitting inside the offices of Jim B. Tucker (Res ’89), an associate psychiatry professor at the UVA Medical Center’s Division of Perceptual Studies.

- The Science of Reincarnation: psychiatrist Jim Tucker investigates children’s claims of past lives, Sean Lyons, *Virginia Magazine*, (https://uvamagazine.org/articles/the_science_of_reincarnation) (Winter 2013)

Many concepts like reincarnation, meditation, yoga and others have found worldwide acceptance. It would not be surprising to find Hinduism the dominant religion of the twenty-first century. It would be a religion that doctrinally is less clear-cut. ~Sushama Londhe

M

- Sex is one of the nine reasons for reincarnation … The other eight are unimportant.
  - Henry Miller, in The Sex Devotional: 365 Days of Passion, Positions, and Pure Pleasure (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=QMGeucMkKrAC&pg=PA199), p. 199

- The disciples asked Jesus: **Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2-3) How could a man sin before he was born, unless the sin was committed in another life? The apostles are not asking what kind of sin resulted in blindness, but *who* sinned, taking for granted that the act of sinning itself brought about this dire result.**
  Furthermore, the sin could have been committed either by the man in a previous existence, or by his parents. This implies both that the sins of the parents are visited upon the children, which is a biblical doctrine, and that the soul exists and therefore pays for the transgressions of previous lives.
  Jesus does not rebuff the apostles for asking such a question. If the doctrine had been alien to His mind, he would have told them that they were talking nonsense.
  - Jeanine Miller, in *Reincarnation and karma in the Bible (Share International)* (https://www.share-international.org/archives/AgelessWisdom/aw_jmreincarn.htm)

- Only that Teaching which contains all hope, which makes life beautiful, which manifests action, can promote true evolution. Certainly life is not a market, where one can make a fine bargain for entrance into the Heavenly Kingdom. Certainly life is not a grave, where one trembles before the justice of an Unknown Judge! In keeping with their opinion, scholars have proposed the ingenious consolation: “Man begins to die from the moment of his birth” — a scanty and funereal comfort. But We say that man is eternally being born, and particularly at the moment of so-called death.
  The servitors of distorted religions encourage their wards in the purchase of places in the cemetery, where through their advance arrangements they will lie more advantageously and honorably than others more indigent and hence undeserving of lengthy prayers. The incense for these poor ones will be adulterated and the prayers abominably sung. Ask people, finally, what authentic Teaching has enjoined this monstrous practice? Verily, we have had enough of graves, cemeteries, and intimidations! 334.
  - The Master Morya, *Leaves of Morya’s Garden II*, Agni Yoga (1925)

- One may know how loftily the Teachers have regarded the transition to future manifestations, and least of all have They been concerned about a cemetery site. The attitude toward death is a very important indicator of the character of the Teaching, for in it is contained the understanding of reincarnation. I urge you to consider reincarnation strictly scientifically. If you can propound any other structure of the universe, We shall

reserve for you a chair as professor of theology and promise you a first-class funeral; for indeed in the eyes of the enlightened you will have already decided to die. Read attentively the writings of the Teachers published by you, and you will be amazed at how unanimously in all ages They speak about the change of life. The Path of Light will appear when you venture to look scientifically and without prejudices.

  - Morya, *Leaves of Morya's Garden II*, (1925)

- Even reincarnation is still regarded as a curiosity or a superstition. All the indications regarding the laws of nature have yet to lead to significant conclusions. I am repeating this not for you but for the timid ignoramuses who attempt to cover crime in a cloak of irresponsibility. How they dread death! In fact, they are even afraid to cross to the other side of the river. Their ignorance needs to be disturbed once in a while. 458.

  - Morya, *Heart*, (1932)

- Frequently you hear absurd tales of how there occur simultaneous incarnations of one and the same person—a conclusion both ignorant and harmful. Deniers of incarnation make use of such fictions to dispute the possibility of reincarnation. Besides, they forget the reason—which somewhat lessens the guilt—namely imaginative invention. Certain people remember the details of a definite epoch; when they dream of being a well-known person, their remembrance of the dream molds the imagining of an incarnation. The resulting error is in the person, but not in the epoch. A child imagines himself a field marshal, and such a representation already sinks into his Chalice.Many remember their past lives, but through obscuration of consciousness they call forth their own past imaginings. One needs to be careful also not to censure too greatly the mistakes of others. 491.
- Morya, *Aum*, Agni Yoga (1936)

Dasavatar (ten descendents) is collective name for the ten avatars (incarnations on earth) of the god Vishnu. In each case Vishnu takes form to restore the cosmic equilibrium when it has been thrown out of balance by the action of a particular demon. ~James G. Lochtefeld

N

- What, if some day or night a demon were to steal after you into your loneliest loneliness and say to you: This life as you now live it and have lived it, you will have to live once more and innumerable times more... Would you not throw yourself down and gnash your teeth and curse the demon who spoke thus? Or have you once experienced a tremendous moment when you would have answered him: You are a god and never have I heard anything more divine.

  - Friedrich Nietzsche, in Results Nietzsche's Postmoralism (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=eNdeC34id4wC&pg=PA237), p. 237

- You have evolved from worm to man, but much within you is still worm. Once you were apes, yet even now man is more of an ape than any of the apes."

  - Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None*

- One of their sages said that he, being one and the same person, was born a man, and afterwards assumed the form of a woman, and flew about with the birds, and grew as a bush, and obtained the life of an aquatic creature — and he who said these things of himself did not, so far as I can judge, go far from the truth: for such doctrines as this of saying that one soul passed through so many changes are really fitting for the chatter of frogs or jackdaws, or the stupidity of fishes, or the insensibility of trees.

- St. Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man* (https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/2914.htm), XXVIII., 3.

You have evolved from worm to man, but much within you is still worm. Once you were apes, yet even now man is more of an ape than any of the apes. ~ Friedrich Nietzsche

O

- **Each soul enters the world strengthened by the victories or weakened by the defects of its past lives. Its place in this world is determined by past virtues and shortcomings.**
  - Origen, *De Principiis*.

P

- Through the travail of the ages, Midst the pomp and toil of war, Have I fought and strove and perished countless times upon this star. In the form of many people In all panoplies of time Have I seen the luring vision Of the Victory Maid, sublime. I have sinned and I have suffered, Played the hero and the knave; Fought for belly, shame, or country, And for each have found a grave... I cannot name my battles For the visions are not clear, Yet, I see the twisted faces And I feel the rending spear. I have fought with gun and cutlass On the red and slippery deck, With all Hell aflame within me And a rope around my neck... So as through a glass, and darkly, The age long strife I see Where I fought in many guises, Many names, but always me... And I see not in my blindness What the objects were I wrought, But as God rules o'er our bickerings, It was through His will I fought. So forever in the future, Shall I battle as of yore, Dying to be born a fighter, But to die again, once more.
  - George S. Patton, *Through A Glass, Darkly* (1918)
- The Pythagorean doctrine prevails among the Gauls' teaching that the souls of men are immortal, and that after a fixed number of years they will enter into another body.
  - Alexander Cornelius Polyhistor in the 1st century BC on Celts, quoted in The Druids (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=9lTuAAAAMAAJ), p. 51
- Sikhs believe in reincarnation. This means when you die, your soul moves on to another body. This cycle of dying and being born again happens over and over again. It goes on until with God's help you become close enough to God to break out of the cycle.
  - Sue Penney, in Sikhism (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=zSmrwVE7RXEC&pg=PA46), p. 46
- Believing in reincarnation makes a difference to what Sikhs believe about death. They say it is like going to sleep. You go to sleep when you are tired, and wake up ready for another day. In the same way, you die, and are born again to a new life. Of course, friends and relations are sad that the person they love is not with them, but Sikhism teaches them to remember that the person has gone on to another life.
  - Sue Penney, in "Sikhism", p. 46
- Late planetary scientist, cosmologist, astrophysicist, astrobiologist, author, and science communicator Carl Sagan, who was well known for being a "hard" and rigid scientist, was actually a founding member of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). Not many scientists even entertain the possibility that what we call "paranormal" may in fact be real and in some way provable

using the scientific method. Sagan was quite famous, yet his interest in the paranormal was and is not really known amongst the general population. He once wrote that “there are three claims in the (parapsychology) field which, in my opinion, deserve serious study with the third being that young children sometimes report details of a previous life, which upon checking turn out to be accurate and which they could not have known about in any other way than reincarnation.” He wrote this in 1996. It’s now more than two decades later and the number of examples and evidence accumulated suggesting that reincarnation, or at least some form it, is real is quite eye-opening.

  - Why Carl Sagan Believed “Reincarnation Deserves Serious Study”, *Planet Today* (https://www.planet-today.com/2021/12/why-carl-sagan-believed-reincarnation.html), December 15, 2021

- Serious scientific study of reincarnation has spanned the last several decades. There are many interesting cases of children remembering details they could not have obtained from anywhere else. For example, a report published in 2016 in the journal Explore titled “The Case of James Leininger: An American Case of the Reincarnation Type” published by Jim B. Tucker, MD from the University of Virginia, explains, Numerous cases of young children who report memories of previous lives have been studied over the last 50 years. Though such cases are more easily found in cultures that have a general belief in reincarnation, they occur in the West as well.

  - Why Carl Sagan Believed “Reincarnation Deserves Serious Study”, *Planet Today* (https://www.planet-today.com/2021/12/why-carl-sagan-believed-reincarnation.html), December 15, 2021

- Soul is older than body. Souls are continually born over again into this life. The idea of Reincarnation was spread widely in Greece and Italy by Pythagoras, Empedocles, Plato, Virgil and Ovid. It was known to the Neo-Platonists, Plotinus and Proclus. Plotinus says: "The soul leaving the body becomes that power which it has most developed. Let us fly then from here below and rise to the intellectual world, that we may not fall into a purely sensible life by allowing ourselves to follow sensible images...."

  - Plato, quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda

- The company of disembodied souls is distributed in various orders. The law of some of them is to enter mortal bodies, and after certain prescribed periods be again set free. Philo of Alexandria, a contemporary of Christ, preached amongst the Hebrews the Platonic idea of the pre-existence and rebirth of human souls.

  - Quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda

- The strength of the doctrine of reincarnation lies in itself, in its appeal to our intellectual and logical faculties, in its own persuasiveness, in the manner in which it answers problems, in the hope that it gives, in the light that it sheds upon collateral questions of human life, and indirectly upon the problems of the physical world surrounding us. It is through and by reincarnation as a natural fact, that we learn the beauty of the inner life and thereby grow, developing a larger comprehension, not only of ourselves, but of the loveliness inherent in the harmony of the universal laws.

  - G. de Purucker, *Man in Evolution* (https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/man-evol/mie-hp.htm), Chapter 10 (1941)

Through the travail of the ages, Midst the pomp and toil of war, Have I fought and strove and perished countless times upon this star. In the form of many people In all panoplies of time Have I seen the luring vision Of the Victory Maid, sublime... So as through a glass, and darkly, The age long strife I see Where I fought in many guises, Many names, but always me... George S. Patton

The Pythagorean doctrine prevails among the Gauls' teaching that the souls of men are immortal, and that after a fixed number of years they will enter into another body. ~Alexander Cornelius Polyhistor

R

The company of disembodied souls is distributed in various orders. The law of some of them is to enter mortal bodies, and after certain prescribed periods be again set free. ~Philo of Alexandria

- I feel as though I have lived many lives, experienced the heights and depths of each and like the waves of the ocean, never known rest. Throughout the years, I looked always for the unusual, for the wonderful, for the mysteries at the heart of life.
  - Leni Riefenstahl, in The sieve of time: the memoirs of Leni Riefenstahl (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=8m5ZAAAAMAAJ), p. 3
- The human soul continues to live after death precisely in the same manner as before. The souls of animals also, to a certain degree, seem to have been considered as having an existence independent of the body, and continuing after its death. Here and there traces have also been found of a belief in the migration of souls, both between dead and living men, and between men and animals.
  - Hinrich Rink, in Tales and Traditions of the Eskimo: With a Sketch of Their Habits, Religion ... (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=3pTYAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA36), p. 36
- A fully developed psychology will not exist until reincarnation is accepted as a fact.
  - Jane Roberts, in *The Early Sessions: Book 7*
- Although the law of Reincarnation was a cornerstone of every ancient religion of the East, and of course the religion of the Jews was no exception, already in the days of Jesus this law was badly distorted by the priesthood and maintained its purity only among individual sects.
  - Helena Roerich, *Letters of Helena Roerich I,* (8 February 1934)

It should be ever borne in mind that Patanjali had no need to assert or enforce the doctrine of reincarnation. That is assumed all through the Aphorisms. That it could be doubted, or need any restatement, never occurred to him... William Q. Judge

- In the New Testament we have plenty of proof regarding this knowledge of the Jews; Christ Himself confirms it. For instance, in the Gospel of St. Matthew (17:10-13), "And his disciples asked him, saying, why then say the scribes that Elias must come first? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."...St. John (9:1-3): "As Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." Indeed, how could a person blind from birth be responsible for his sins without the law of Reincarnation! There are other very clear hints, but you should find them for yourself.
  - Helena Roerich, *Letters of Helena Roerich I,* (8 February 1934)
- You write, "No wonder Christ did not find it possible to reveal this truth (the law of Reincarnation) directly and openly to the undeveloped human minds." But I think it would be more correct to say that although the law of Reincarnation was a cornerstone of every ancient religion of the East... already in the days of Jesus this law was badly distorted by the priesthood and maintained its purity only among individual sects. In the New Testament we have plenty of proof regarding this knowledge...

- Helena Roerich in *Letters of Helena Roerich I*, Agni Yoga (8 February 1934) (http://agniyoga.org/ay_en/Letters-of-Helena-Roerich-I.php)

- Others pay attention to the law of Reincarnation...a cornerstone of all the most ancient religions. From these sources Christianity later borrowed all its symbols and ceremonies. ...We should not forget that the law of Reincarnation was rejected only in the sixth century by the Council of Constantinople. And we are supposed to accept as revelation and dogma the authority of the Fathers of the Church who, with great seriousness, discussed such problems as "How many spirits may be placed on the end of a needle?" or such similar pearls as "Has woman a soul?

  - Helena Roerich in *Letters of Helena Roerich I*, Agni Yoga (17 February 1934) (http://agniyoga.org/ay_en/Letters-of-Helena-Roerich-I.php)

- It is impossible to stop all progress, and it is impossible to share the mentality of the ancient priesthood, the creators of Christian dogmas, who, at their synods for instance, discussed very seriously how many spirits could be placed on the end of a needle, or whether or not woman possessed a soul, and similar gems of profound spiritual revelation... Let us not forget that the law of Reincarnation was rejected by these wise men only in the sixth century, at the Council of Constantinople. No, it is time to look through all the Teachings, discard the later distorted accumulations, and return to the pure original sources. It would be advisable for the fathers of the church to recollect the Covenant of Christ, and of his favorite disciple, "love one another." Then everything would take its right place.

  - Helena Roerich, *Letters of Helena Roerich I,* (2 June 1934)

Reincarnation... a cornerstone of all the most ancient religions... We should not forget that the law of Reincarnation was rejected only in the sixth century by the Council of Constantinople ~Helena Roerich

- Thus, we should find that the law of Reincarnation was rejected by the Council of Constantinople in the sixth century A.D., in spite of the fact that the Gospel itself contains words of Christ that have obvious reference to the law of Reincarnation. If people would take the trouble to study seriously the fundamental Teaching of Christ, and if possible in the original language of the Gospels instead of being satisfied with the school textbooks, they would discover a new meaning in the words, and the true, great Image of Christ would be revealed to their spiritual sight.

  - Helena Roerich, *Letters I*, (12 September 1934)

- Just think! Only in the sixth century A.D. was the dogma of **Reincarnation** rejected by the Second Council of Constantinople! Thus the contrivances of greedy and petty minds were stratified and become dogma for the following generations which did not yet dare to think independently... And there are so many affirmations in the Gospel about Reincarnation, actually in the words of Christ himself. The Fathers of the Church committed great sin by eliminating this law of the Highest Justice from the consciousness of the flocks entrusted to them. But we are no less sinful in our passive indulgence, and non-resistance to evil.

  - Helena Roerich in *Letters of Helena Roerich II*, Agni Yoga (7 October 1935) (http://agniyoga.org/ay_en/Letters-of-Helena-Roerich-II.php)

- Don’t grieve.
  Anything you lose comes round in another form.
  The child weaned from mother’s milk
  Now drinks wine and honey mixed.
  God’s joys move from unmarked box to unmarked box,

from cell to cell.
As rainwater,
down into flowerbed
And roses, up from ground.

  - Rumi, in In the Letting Go: Words to Heal the Heart on the Death of a Mother (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=D1b2jMGibXsC&pg=PA113), p. 113

- **I died as a mineral and became a plant,I died as a plant and rose to animal,**
  I died as an animal and I was Man.
  Why should I fear? When was I less by dying?

  - Jalaluddin Rumi, in Sai Baba of Shirdi (English) (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=ZcEJn3MLjcIC&pg=PA36). p. 36

I feel as though I have lived many lives, experienced the heights and depths of each and like the waves of the ocean, never known rest. Throughout the years, I looked always for the unusual, for the wonderful, for the mysteries at the heart of life. ~Leni Riefenstahl

S

- There are three claims in the (parapsychology) field which, in my opinion, deserve serious study with the third being that young children sometimes report details of a previous life, which upon checking turn out to be accurate and which they could not have known about in any other way than reincarnation.

  - Carl Sagan quoted in Why Carl Sagan Believed “Reincarnation Deserves Serious Study”, *Planet Today* (https://www.planet-today.com/2021/12/why-carl-sagan-believed-reincarnation.html), December 15, 2021

I died as a mineral and became a plant...~Rumi:

- Galileo's head was on the block... The crime was looking up for truth... And then you had to bring up reincarnation... How long 'til my soul gets it right... Can any human being ever reach that kind of light... I call on the resting soul of Galileo... King of night vision, king of insight... I'm not making a joke, you know me...I take everything so seriously... If we wait for the time 'til all souls get it right... Then at least I know there'll be no nuclear annihilation... Can any human being ever reach the highest light... Except for Galileo — God rest his soul... Except for the resting soul of Galileo... King of night vision, king of insight.

  - Emily Saliers in the song, “Galileo” (lead single of the Indigo Girls fourth album, a minor crossover pop hit in the US in August 1992, *Genius* (https://genius.com/Indigo-girls-galileo-lyrics) (12 May 1992)

- Nirvana is a state of pure blissful knowledge.. It has nothing to do with individual. The ego or its separation is an illusion. The goal of man is to preserve his Karma and to develop it further – when man dies his karma lives and creates for itself another carrier.

  - Erwin Schrödinger, *My View of the World* (1961)

- **Reincarnation is one of the most extraordinary and potentially significant religious concepts. I am confident that there truly is such a thing as living again, that the living spring from the dead, and that the souls of the dead are in existence.**

- Socrates, in The Five-Minute Philosopher: 80 Unquestionably Good Answers to 80 ... (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=wxnzcgIGcnwC&pg=PT143), p. 143

- **I am confident in the belief that there truly is such a thing as living again, and that the living spring from the dead, and that the souls of the dead are in existence, and that the good souls have a better portion than the evil.**
  - Socrates, in Phaedo

- Yoga says instinct is a trace of an old experience that has been repeated many times and the impressions have sunk down to the bottom of the mental lake. Although they go down, they aren't completely erased. Don't think you ever forget anything. All experiences are stored in the *chittam* [mind]; and, when the proper atmosphere is created, they come to the surface again. When we do something several times it forms a habit. Continue with that habit for a long time, and it becomes your character. Continue with that character and eventually, perhaps in another life, it comes up as instinct.
  - Swami Satchidananda, in Integral Yoga: The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=iNXWAAAAMAAJ), p. 108

- **There is no death. How can there be death if everything is part of the Godhead? The soul never dies and the body is never really alive.**
  - Isaac Bashevis Singer, in Lessons About Life, Love, Hate and Human Experience (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=Ur-2TtLtaBQC&pg=PA54), p. 54

Reincarnation was rejected only in the sixth century by the Council of Constantinople. And we are supposed to accept as revelation and dogma the authority of the Fathers of the Church who, with great seriousness, discussed such problems... as "Has woman a soul? ~Helena Roerich

- John the Baptist was according to the Jews a second Elijah; Jesus was believed by many to be the re-appearance of some other prophet. (See Matt, xvi, 14, also xvii, 12.) Solomon says in his Book of Wisdom: **"I was a child of good nature and a good soul came to me, or rather because I was good I came into an undefiled body."**
  - Solomon quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda

- **The idea of reincarnation forms an important principle in the religion of Hinduism adhered to by the great majority of the inhabitants of India**...Its doctrines and practices do not differ much today than what they were thousands of years ago. The persuasions of Muslim and Christian conquerors and missionaries have had little impact on the continuing belief of all Indians in the basic ideas of Hinduism.
  - Ian Stevenson in Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation, Volume 26 (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=vIDES6VWI1MC&pg=PA15)

- Opinions differ whether human souls can be reincarnated on the earth or not. In 1936 a very interesting case was thoroughly investigated and reported by the government authorities in India. A girl (Shanti Devi from Deli) could accurately describe her previous life (at Muttra, five hundred miles from Deli) which ended about a year before her 'second birth'. She gave the name of her husband and child and described her home and life history. The investigating commission brought her to her former relatives, who verified all her statements. Among the people of India reincarnations are regarded as commonplace; the astonishing thing for them in this case was the great number of facts the girl remembered. This and similar cases can be regarded as additional evidence for the theory of the indestructibility of memory.
  - Professor Gust Stromberg, in "The Buddhism Primer : an Introduction to Buddhism", p. 45

T

- **Unending Love**
  I seem to have loved you in numberless forms, numberless times...
  In life after life, in age after age, forever.
  My spellbound heart has made and remade the necklace of songs,
  That you take as a gift, wear round your neck in your many forms,
  In life after life, in age after age, forever.
  Whenever I hear old chronicles of love, it's age old pain,
  It's ancient tale of being apart or together.
  As I stare on and on into the past, in the end you emerge,
  Clad in the light of a pole-star, piercing the darkness of time.
  You become an image of what is remembered forever.
  You and I have floated here on the stream that brings from the fount.
  At the heart of time, love of one for another.
  We have played along side millions of lovers,
  Shared in the same shy sweetness of meeting,
  the distressful tears of farewell,
  Old love but in shapes that renew and renew forever.
  Today it is heaped at your feet, it has found its end in you
  The love of all man's days both past and forever:
  Universal joy, universal sorrow, universal life.
  The memories of all loves merging with this one love of ours -
  And the songs of every poet past and forever.
  - Rabindranath Tagore, in 365 Inspiring and Motivational Ideas (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=qhcvRzeKmwQC&pg=PA42), p. 42

- To Indians the idea of the transmigration of the soul from animal to man, and man to animal, does not seem strange, and so from our scriptures pity for all sentient creatures has not been banished as a sentimental exaggeration. When I am in close touch with Nature in the country, the Indian in me asserts itself and I cannot remain coldly indifferent to the abounding joy of life throbbing within the soft down-covered breast of a single tiny bird.
  - Rabindranath Tagore, *Glimpses of Bengal: A Selection of Letters* (http://www.spiritualbee.com/tagore-book-of-letters/) (Macmillan and Co., 1921), 9 August 1894

- Consider for example the past-life memories of people under hypnosis. Whether these are actual memories of previous lives or not has yet to be proved, but the fact remains, the human inconscious has a natural propensity for generating at least *apparent* memories of previous incarnations. In general, the orthodox psychiatric community ignores this fact. Why?
  - Michael Talbot in *The Holographic Universe*, p 295 (1991)

- It may be that no life is found,
  Which only to one engine bound

There is no death. How can there be death if everything is part of the Godhead? The soul never dies and the body is never really alive. ~Isaac Bashevis Singer

I was a child of good nature and a good soul came to me, or rather because I was good I came into an undefiled body. ~ Solomon

Falls off, but cycles always round.

  - Alfred Tennyson, http://books.google.co.in/books?id=gV66Yu3ITu0C&pg=PA126 The Broadview Anthology of Victorian Poetry and Poetic Theory, Concise Edition], p. 126

- Two Voices:
  Or, if through lower lives I came--
  Tho' all experience past became,
  Consolidate in mind and frame--
  I might forget my weaker lot;
  For is not our first year forgot?
  The haunts of memory echo not.

  - Alfred Tennyson, in "Reincarnation" quoted by Swami Abhedananda

- As far back as I can remember I have unconsciously referred to the experiences of a previous state of existence.

  - Henry David Thoreau, in The Heart of Thoreau's Journals (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=k9a6nIdlxYMC&pg=PA47). P.47

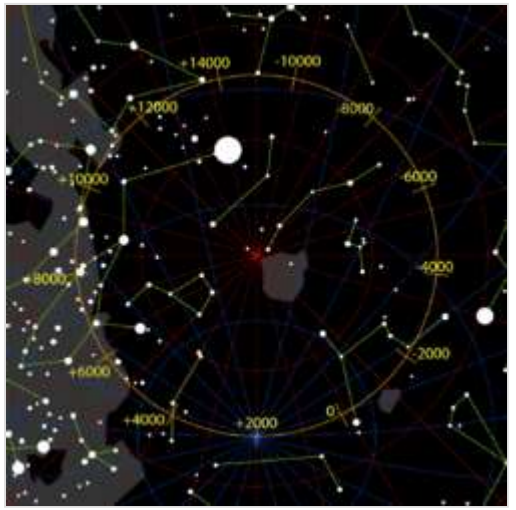
- I (my ghost) was taken to the place where the sun sets (the west).... While at that place, I thought I would come back to earth again, and the old man with whom I was staying said to me, “My son, did you not speak about wanting to go to the earth again?” I had, as a matter of fact, only thought of it, yet he knew what I wanted. Then he said to me, “You can go, but you must ask the chief first.” Then I went and told the chief of the village of my desire, and he said to me, “You may go and obtain your revenge upon the people who killed your relatives and you.” Then I was brought down to earth.... There I lived until I died of old age.... As I was lying [in my grave], someone said to me, “Come, let us go away.” So then we went toward the setting of the sun. There we came to a village where we met all the dead. … thence I came to this earth again for the third time, and here I am. I am growing through the same that I knew before.

  - Thunder Cloud, From an account of Thunder Cloud’s reincarnations, translated and annotated by Paul Radin, in Amerindian Rebirth: Reincarnation Belief Among North American Indians and Inuit (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=dmw0WbI-oSwC&printsec=frontcover), p. 60-61

- The case of Thunder Cloud exemplifies another recurrent theme: that those who die in battle are especially privileged or likely to be reborn with their memory of previous life intact.

  - Thunder Cloud, In "Amerindian Rebirth: Reincarnation Belief Among North American Indians and Inuit" P.58 translated and annotated by Paul Radin, in Amerindian Rebirth: Reincarnation Belief Among North American Indians and Inuit (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=dmw0WbI-oSwC&printsec=frontcover), p. 60-61

- As we live through thousands of dreams in out present life, so is our present life only one of many thousands of such lives which we enter from the other more real life... and then return after death. Our



...As I stare on and on into the past, in the end you emerge,
Clad in the light of a pole-star, piercing the darkness of time.
You become an image of what is remembered forever... ~Rabindranath Tagore

As we live through thousands of dreams in out present life, so is our present life only one of many thousands of such lives which we enter from the other more real life... and then return after death. Our life is but one of the dreams of that more real life, and so it is endlessly, until the very last one, the very real life of God. ~Leo Tolstoy

life is but one of the dreams of that more real life, and so it is endlessly, until the very last one, the very real life of God.

- Count Leo Tolstoy, in Self-realization, Volumes 49-51 (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=T7ntAAAAIAAJ), p. 45

Winnebago Indians.

- Some one happened to mention to me that a certain Madame Blavatsky had just arrived in London, bringing with her a new religion... I set off to call upon her... I asked her to explain her new religion... I explained to her my difficulties, which she proceeded to solve by expounding the doctrines of reincarnation and Karma. They jumped instantly to my reason. I there and then found the Just God, of whom I had been in search. From that day to this I have never had reason to swerve from those beliefs. The older I grow, the more experience I gather, the more I read, the more confirmed do I become in the belief that such provide the only rational explanation of this life, the only natural hope in the world to come. I have offered those beliefs to very many people whom I discovered to be on the same quest as I had been. I have never once had them rejected by any serious truth-seeker, and I have seen them passed on and on by these people to others, forming enormous ramifications which became lost to view in the passage of time and their own magnitude.
  - Violet Tweedale, *Ghosts I Have Seen, and Other Psychic Experiences*, 1919
- Blavatsky began by exploding the theory that men are born equal. If this one life were all, then this great error ought, in common justice, to be absolute truth, and every man should possess common rights in the community, and one man ought to be as good as another. If every soul born to-day is a fresh creation, who will in the course of time pass away from this life for ever, then why is it that one is only fitted to obey, whilst another is eminently fitted to rule? One is born with a tendency to vice and crime, another to virtue and honesty. One is born a genius, another is born to idiocy. How, she asked, could a firm social foundation ever be built up on this utter disregard of nature? How treat, as having right to equal power, the wise and the ignorant, the criminal and the saint? Yet, if man be born but once it would be very unjust to build on any other foundation. Re-incarnation implies the evolution of the soul, and it makes the equality of man a delusion. In evolution time plays the greatest part, and through evolution humanity is climbing. "Souls while eternal in their essence are of different ages in their individuality."
  - Violet Tweedale, *Ghosts I Have Seen, and Other Psychic Experiences*, 1919
- Many of us must know people who though quite old in years are children in mind. Men and women who having arrived at three score years and ten are still utterly childish and inconsequent. They are young souls who have had the experiences of very few earth lives. Again, we all know children who seem born abnormally old. Infant prodigies, musicians, calculators, painters who have brought over their genius from a former life.
  - Violet Tweedale, *Ghosts I Have Seen, and Other Psychic Experiences* , 1919

V

- Burn him not up, nor quite consume him, Agni: let not his body or his skin be scattered. O *Jatavedas*, when thou hast matured him, then send him on his way unto the Fathers... let thy fierce flame, thy glowing splendour, burn him With thine auspicious forms, o Jatavedas, bear this man to the region of the pious... Again, O Agni, to the Fathers send him who, offered in thee, goes with our oblations. Wearing new life let him increase his offspring: let him rejoin a body, Jatavedas then.
  - Rig Veda states in Book 10 Part 02, Hymn XVI, quoted in Vedic Philosophy of Values (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=DOIaShWLz3EC&pg=PA86), p. 86

- The latest scientific men are coming back to the ancient sages, and as far as they have done so, there is perfect agreement. They admit that each man and each animal is born with a fund of experience, and that all these actions in the mind are the result of past experience. "But what," they ask, "is the use of saying that that experience belongs to the soul? Why not say it belongs to the body, and the body alone? Why not say it is hereditary transmission?" This is the last question. *Why not say that all the experience with which I am born is the resultant effect of all the past experience of my ancestors? The sum total of the experience from the little protoplasm up to the highest human being is in me, but it has come from body to body in the course of hereditary transmission. Where will the difficulty be? This question is very nice, and we admit some part of this hereditary transmission. How far? As far as furnishing the material. We, by our past actions, conform ourselves to a certain birth in a certain body, and the only suitable material for that body comes from the parents who have made themselves fit to have that soul as their offspring.
  - Vivekananda's lecture delivered in New York, 26th January 1896, in The Cosmos: The Microcosm (http://www.ramakrishnavivekananda.info/vivekananda/volume_2/jnana-yoga/the_microcosm.htm)
- Doctrine of reincarnation is neither absurd nor useless. It is not more surprising to be born twice than once.
  - Voltaire, in Who Knows?: A Study of Religious Consciousness (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=0TSqizxUv-YC&pg=PA39), p. 39

The primary text that describes the complex laws of reincarnation is The Gate of Reincarnations (*Sha'ar Ha'Gilgulim*), based on the writings of the master Kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria (1534-72) and compiled by his disciple, Rabbi Chaim Vital. The Book of Splendor (*Sepher ha Zohar*) gives a rationale for reincarnation that is virtually identical to that of early Christian theologian Origen. B. Alan Wallace

W

- Reincarnation teaches that the soul enters this life, not as a fresh creation, but after a long course of previous existences on this earth and elsewhere, in which it acquired its present inhering peculiarities, and that it is on the way to future transformations which the soul is now shaping.
  - E. D. Walker, quoted by William Walker Atkinson in *Reincarnation and the Law of Karma*, (1908)
- It claims that infancy brings to earth, not a blank scroll for the beginning of an earthly record, nor a mere cohesion of atomic forces into a brief personality, soon to dissolve again into the elements, but that it is inscribed with ancestral histories, some like the present scene, most of them unlike it and stretching back into the remotest past. These inscriptions are generally undecipherable, save as revealed in their moulding influence upon the new career; but like the invisible photographic images made by the sun of all it sees, when they are properly developed in the laboratory of consciousness they will be distinctly displayed. The current phase of life will also be stored away in the secret vaults of memory, for its unconscious effects upon the ensuing lives.
  - E. D. Walker, quoted by William Walker Atkinson in *Reincarnation and the Law of Karma* (http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26364), (1908)
- All the qualities we now possess, in body, mind and soul, result from our use of ancient opportunities. We are indeed 'the heir of all the ages,' and are alone responsible for our inheritances. For these conditions accrue from distant causes engendered by our older selves, and the future flows by the divine law of cause and effect from the gathered momentum of our past impetuses. There is no favoritism in the universe, but all have the same everlasting facilities for growth.

- E. D. Walker, quoted by William Walker Atkinson in *Reincarnation and the Law of Karma*, (1908)

- Those who are now elevated in worldly station may be sunk in humble surroundings in the future. Only the inner traits of the soul are permanent companions. The wealthy sluggard may be the beggar of the next life; and the industrious worker of the present is sowing the seeds of future greatness. Suffering bravely endured now will produce a treasure of patience and fortitude in another life; hardships will give rise to strength; self-denial must develop the will; tastes cultivated in this existence will somehow bear fruit in coming ones; and acquired energies will assert themselves whenever they can by the Law of Parsimony upon which the principles of physics are based. Vice versa, the unconscious habits, the uncontrollable impulses, the peculiar tendencies, the favorite pursuits, and the soul-stirring friendships of the present descend from far-reaching previous activities.

  - E. D. Walker, quoted by William Walker Atkinson in *Reincarnation and the Law of Karma*, (1908)

The New Testament declared that John was imbued with Elijah's "spirit and power", which could easily be interpreted as his being a reincarnation of Elijah. But theologians have interpreted these passages in various ways. ~B. Alan Wallace:

- Jane's attitude toward reincarnation (like mine) was strongly ambivalent. the idea of physical life being expressed in many historical situations made emotional and intuitive sense to her. Intellectually, however, she was highly suspicious of the standard notion of reincarnation, particularly as any kind of pat answer to present problems. Thus, when class started to experience the theory of reincarnation in emotionally-charged drama form, Jane would often find herself in a most uncomfortable one-foot-on-the-dock, one-foot-in-the-boat position, at once intellectually scandalized and intuitively involved. Even on those occasions when the inner events would "click," or when Seth gave past-life information that made complete sense to people, Jane worried about it for days afterwards. What was the meaning of such memories? Where did they come from? Were we creating the events through suggestion, combined with a need for emotional outlet? Or did we actually remember people who lived -- in our terms -- long before any of us were born? these questions demanded the class maintain a balance, from which Jane never let things stray too far.

  - Susan M. Watkins in Conversations With Seth, Volume 1, p. 173

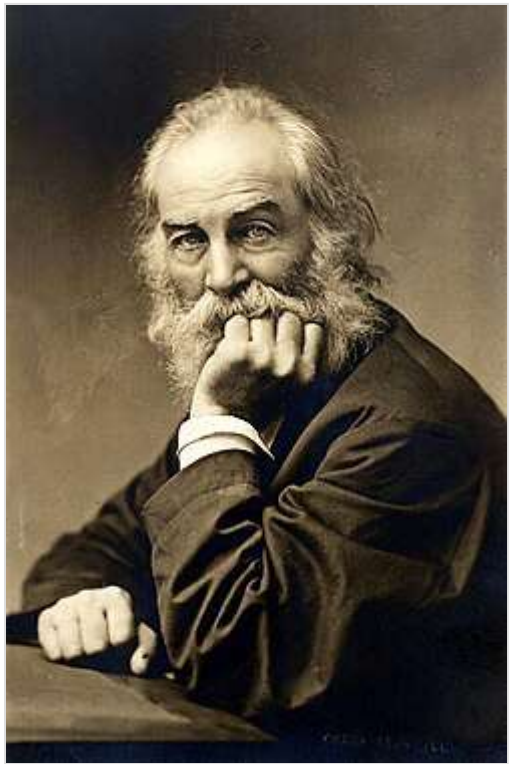
- I know I am deathless...
  We have thus far exhausted
  trillions of winters and summers,
  There are trillions ahead, and
  trillions ahead of them.

  - Walt Whitman, in Holistic Health Healing and Astrosciences (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=Lpm9VxRPHXcC&pg=PA75), p. 75

- In Hebrew literature the idea of reincarnation seems to appear for the first time in the writings of Anan ben David (eighth century) who used the term *gulgul* to refer to the transmigration of souls. Within Judaism, belief in reincarnation is closely associate with esoteric tradition known as Kabbalah. The earliest documented Kabbalistic writing is called the Book of Formation (Sepher Yetzirah)...Within this tradition of Judaism, the primary text that describes the complex laws of reincarnation is The Gate of Reincarnations (*Sha'ar Ha'Gilgulim*), based on the writings of the master Kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria (1534-72) and compiled by his disciple, Rabbi Chaim Vital. The Book of Splendor (*Sepher ha Zohar*) gives a rationale for reincarnation that is virtually identical to that of early Christian theologian Origen.

  - B. Alan Wallace, in Mind in the Balance: Meditation in Science, Buddhism, and Christianity (http://books.google.co.in/books?id=1vlf1KZH2hEC&printsec=frontcover), p. 104

- The New Testament declared that John was imbued with Elijah's "spirit and power", which could easily be interpreted as his being a reincarnation of Elijah. But theologians have interpreted these passages in various ways.
  - B. Alan Wallace, in "Mind in the Balance: Meditation in Science, Buddhism, and Christianity", p. 10
- It is possible that in his many travels, Pythagoras may have learned this [Pythagoras theorem] and other branches of knowledge, especially pertaining to meditation, from Indian sources. He is also known for his belief in reincarnation, according to which the soul is immortal and is reborn in both human and animal bodies. Legend has it that he claimed to be able to recall up to twenty of his own and other past lives.
  - B. Alan Wallace, in "Mind in the Balance: Meditation in Science, Buddhism, and Christianity", p. 8
- According to a Harrris Poll taken in 1998, 23 percent of American public professed belief in reincarnation, including 23 percent of Christians and 32 percent of non-Christians. Similar surveys recently taken in the United Kingdom indicate that 30 to 35 percent of the British population believe in reincarnation.
  - B. Alan Wallace, in "Mind in the Balance: Meditation in Science, Buddhism, and Christianity", p. 101
- Belief in reincarnation is present in all schools of Buddhism, initially stemming from Buddha's experience of enlightenment. He concluded that three things are necessary for the emergence of a human psyche and the formation of a human embryo; the parents sexual intercourse; ovulation in the mother; the presence of a being in the intermediate state who has the karma to be reborn to those parents at the time. While such beings are influenced by their karma, or actions in their past lives, they also choose the parents to whom they shall be born. So reincarnation is not a matter of predetermination where the future is totally determined by past events.
  - B. Alan Wallace, in "Mind in the Balance: Meditation in Science, Buddhism, and Christianity", p. 104
- **Intimations of Immortality**
  The soul that rises with us, our life's star,
  Hath had elsewhere its setting,
  And cometh from afar.
  - William Wordsworth, in "Intimations of Immortality" quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda
- **Leaves of Grass**:
  As to you, Life, I reckon you are the leavings of many deaths,
  No doubt I have died myself ten thousand times before.
  - Walt Whitman, in "Intimations of Immortality" quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda



*I know I am deathless... We have thus far exhausted trillions of winters and summers, There are trillions ahead, and trillions ahead of them. ~Walt Whitman

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- By perceiving the *Samskaras* one acquires the knowledge of past lives.
  - Raja Yoga, 18th aphorism quoted in "Reincarnation" by Swami Abhedananda

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Vedanta Philosophy: Five Lectures on Reincarnation, by [[w:Swami Abhedananda|Swami Abhedananda, (1907)

(Full text multiple formats (http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/7377))

- The whole process is expressed in Eastern philosophy by the doctrine of the Reincarnation of the individual soul. This doctrine is now accepted by a majority in the West as being possible and all Hindus and Buddhists have believed in reincarnation for thousands of years. (I. Reincarnation)
- The scientific explanation of this theory is now exposed and augments the writings of the Hindus. We know that from very ancient times it was believed by the philosophers, sages and prophets of different countries. The ancient civilization of Egypt was built upon a crude form of the doctrine of Reincarnation. Herodotus says:"The Egyptians propounded the theory that the human soul is imperishable, and that where the body of any one dies it enters into some other creature that may be ready to receive it. (I. Reincarnation)
- Does heredity explain such cases? No. These illustrations are sufficient to disprove the theory of "cumulative heredity". "Cumulative" means gradualness. The believers in this theory say that a genius is the result of cumulative heredity, that is, it presents itself by degrees from less genius to greater and still greater and so on. In the whole history of the genealogy of geniuses, like Homer, Plato, Shakespeare, Goethe, Raphael, there never was in their families almost Plato, almost Shakespeare, or almost Goethe. Neither is it possible to trace the extraordinary powers of any of these back to any member of their ancestral line. Therefore we can say that no other theory than that of Reincarnation can explain satisfactorily the causes which produce geniuses and prodigies in this world. (II. Heredity & Reincarnation)
- Those who accept the truth of Reincarnation do not blame their parents for their poor talents, or for not possessing extraordinary powers, but they remain content with their own lot, knowing that they have made themselves as they are today by their own thoughts and deeds in their previous incarnations. They understand the meaning of the saying, *"What thou sowest, thou must reap,"* and always endeavor to mould their future by better thoughts and better deeds. They explain all the inequalities and diversities of life and character by the law of "Karma," which governs the process of Reincarnation as well as the gradual evolution of the germs of life from lower to higher stages of existence. (II. Heredity & Reincarnation)
- There are many stages in the higher nature, as well as in the lower. Each of these stages binds the individual soul so long as it stays there. As it rises on a higher plane the lower stages disappear and cease to bind. But the moment that any individual... reaches the ultimate point of perfection, he realizes his true nature which is immortal and divine. Then his true individuality manifests. For lack of true knowledge, he identified himself with each stage successively and thought that his individuality was one with the powers which were manifested in each stage... But now he realizes that his real individuality always remained unaffected. He sees that his true individuality shines always in the same manner... (III. Evolution and Reincarnation)

- The subtle body of an individual changes from animal nature through moral and spiritual into divine. As this gradual growth cannot be expected in one life we shall have to admit the truth of Reincarnation, which teaches gradual evolution of the germ of life or the individual soul through many lives and various forms. Otherwise the theory of Evolution will remain imperfect, incomplete and purposeless. (III. Evolution and Reincarnation)

- The doctrine of Reincarnation differs from the accepted theory of Evolution in admitting a gradual but continuous evolution of the subtle body through many gross forms. The gross body may appear or disappear, but the subtle body continues to exist even after the dissolution of the gross body and re-manifests itself in some other form. (III. Evolution and Reincarnation)

- The theory of Reincarnation when properly understood will appear as a supplement to the theory of Evolution. Without this most important supplement the Evolution theory will never be complete and perfect. Evolution explains the process of life, while Reincarnation explains the purpose of life. Therefore, both must go hand in hand to make the explanation satisfactory in every respect. (III. Evolution and Reincarnation)

- Evolution of the body depends upon the evolution of the germ of life or the individual soul. When these two are combined the explanation becomes perfect. (III. Evolution and Reincarnation)

- The theory of Reincarnation is a logical necessity for the completion of the theory of Evolution. If we admit a continuous evolution of a unit of the germ of life through many gross manifestations then we unconsciously accept the teachings of the doctrine of Reincarnation. In passing through different forms and manifestations the unit of life does not lose its identity or individuality. As an atom does not lose its identity or individuality (if you allow me to suppose an atom has a kind of individuality) although it passes from the mineral, through the vegetable, into the animal, so the germ of life always preserves its identity or individuality although it passes through the different stages of evolution. (III. Evolution and Reincarnation)

- If any person has no desire to come back to this world or to any other and does not want to enjoy any particular object of pleasure, and if he is perfectly free from selfishness that person will not have to come back. The theory of Reincarnation is logical and satisfactory. While the theory of Resurrection is neither based on scientific truths nor can it logically explain the cause of life and death, Reincarnation solves all the problems of life and explains scientifically all the questions and doubts that arise in the human mind. (IV. Which is Scientific—Resurrection or Reincarnation?)

- Reincarnation is not easily understood by a thoughtless child deluded by the delusion of wealth, name or fame. Everything ends with death, he thinks, and thus falls again and again under the sway of death. (IV. Which is Scientific—Resurrection or Reincarnation?)

- The theory of Transmigration according to the Hindus, rejects this idea of the going back of human souls to animal forms... however... in India there are many uneducated people among the Hindus who believe that human souls do migrate into animal bodies after death to gain experience and reap the results of their wicked deeds, being bound by the law of Karma... The educated and thoughtful minds of India, however, accept the more rational and scientific theory of Reincarnation. (IV. Which is Scientific—Resurrection or Reincarnation?)

- Although there are passages in the scriptural writings of the Hindus which apparently refer to the retrogression of the human soul into animal nature, still such passages do not necessarily mean that the souls will be obliged to take animal bodies. They may live like animals even when they have human bodies, as we may find among us many people like cats and dogs and snakes in human form and they are often more vicious than natural cats, dogs or snakes. They are reaping their own Karma and manifesting their animal nature, though physically they look like human beings. This kind of retrogression is possible for one who after reaching the human plane goes backward on account of wicked thoughts and deeds on the animal plane. (V. Theory of Transmigration)

- For instance, if I do not know that fire burns, I may put my finger into it and get burned. The result of this mistake is the burning of the finger and this has taught me once for all that fire burns; I shall never again put my finger into fire. So every mistake is a great teacher in the long run. (V. Theory of Transmigration)

- No one is born so high and perfect as not to commit any mistake or any sin. Every mistake like this opens our eyes to the laws of the universe by bringing to us such results as we do not desire. As one life is not enough to gain experience in all the stages of evolution, we must have to admit the doctrine of the Reincarnation of the soul for the fulfillment of the ultimate purpose of earthly life. (V. Theory of Transmigration)

The Ancient Wisdom, by Annie Besant, (1897)

- A heavy task lies before us, and beginning on the physical plane we shall climb slowly upwards, but a bird's eye view of the great sweep of evolution and of its purpose may help us, ere we begin our detailed study in the world that surrounds us.
- Narrowing down our view to the chain of which our globe is one, we see life-waves sweep round informing the kingdoms of nature, the three elemental, the mineral, vegetable, animal, human. Narrowing down our view still further to our own globe and its surroundings, we watch human evolution, and see man developing self-consciousness by a series of many life-periods; then centering on a single man we trace his growth and see that each life-period has a threefold division that each is linked to all life-periods behind it reaping their results, and to all life-periods before it sowing their harvests, by a law that cannot be broken; that thus man may climb upwards with each life-period adding to his experience, each life-period lifting him higher in purity, in devotion, in intellect, in power of usefulness, until at last he stands where They stand who are now the Teachers, fit, to pay to his younger brothers the debt he owes to Them. p. 39
- If it be admitted that the soul of the savage is destined to live and evolve, and that he is not doomed for eternity to his present infant state, but that his evolution will take place after death and in other worlds, then the principle of soul-evolution is conceded, and the question of the place of evolution alone remains.
- Were all souls on earth at the same stage of evolution, much might be said for the contention that further worlds are needed for the evolution of souls beyond the infant stage. But we have around us souls that are far advanced, and that were born with noble mental and moral qualities. p. 108
- Human evolution is the evolution of the Thinker... At first, as little conscious as a baby's earthly body, he almost slept through life after life, till the experiences playing on him from without awakened some of his latent forces into activity; but gradually he assumed more and more part in the direction of his life, until, with manhood reached, he took his life into his own hands, and an ever-increasing control over his future destiny. p. 131
- We are now in a position to study one of the pivotal doctrines of the Ancient Wisdom, the doctrine of reincarnation. Our view of it will be clearer and more in congruity with natural order, if we look at it as universal in principle, and then consider the special case of the reincarnation of the human soul.
- In studying it, this special case is generally wrenched from its place in natural order, and is considered as a dislocated fragment, greatly to its detriment. For all evolution consists of an evolving life, passing from form to form as it evolves, and storing up in itself the experiences gained through the forms; the reincarnation of the human soul is not the introduction of a new principle into evolution, but the adaptation of the universal principle to meet the conditions rendered necessary by the individualisation of the continuously evolving life. p. 180
- A life of extreme hardship, of ceaseless struggle with nature, will develop very different powers from those evolved amid the luxuriant plenty of a tropical island; both sets of powers are needed, for the soul is to conquer every region of nature, but striking differences may thus be evolved even in souls of the same age, and one may appear to be more advanced than the other, according as the observer estimates most highly the more "practical" or the more "contemplative" powers of the soul, the active outward-going energies, or the quiet inward-turned musing faculties.

The perfected soul possesses all, but the soul in the making must develop them successively, and thus arises another cause of the immense variety found among human beings. For again, it must be remembered that human evolution is individual. p. 202

- We find differences separating individual men greater, than the ever separated, closely allied animals, and hence also the evolution of qualities cannot be studied in men in the mass, but only in the continuing individual. The lack of power to make such a study leaves science unable to explain why some men tower above their fellows, intellectual and moral giants, unable to trace the intellectual evolution of a Shankarâchârya or a Pythagoras, the moral evolution of a Buddha or of a Christ.

- With reincarnation man is a dignified, immortal being, evolving towards a divinely glorious end; without it, he is a tossing straw on the stream of chance circumstances , irresponsible for his character, for his actions, for his destiny. With it, he may look forward with fearless hope, however low in the scale of evolution he may be today, for he is on the ladder to divinity, and the climbing to its summit is only a question of time; without it, he has no reasonable ground of assurance as to progress in the future, nor indeed any reasonable ground of assurance in a future at all. Why should a creature without a past look forward to a future? He may be a mere bubble on the ocean of time. Flung into the world from non-entity, with qualities of good or evil, attached to him without reason or desert, why should he strive to make the best of them? Will not his future, if he have one, be as isolated, as uncaused, as unrelated as his present? In dropping reincarnation from its beliefs, the modern world has deprived God of His justice and has bereft man of his security; he may be “lucky” or “unlucky” but the strength and dignity conferred by reliance on a changeless law are rent away from him, and he is left tossing helplessly on an un-navigable ocean of life. p. 242

Isis Unveiled: A Master-Key to the Mysteries of Ancient and Modern Science and Theology, H.P. Blavatsky, (1877)]]

(Full text online, htm (https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/isis/iu-hp.htm), + multiple formats (https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.90215))

- Basing all his doctrines upon the presence of the Supreme Mind, Plato taught that the nous, spirit, or rational soul of man, being “generated by the Divine Father,” possessed a nature kindred, or even homogeneous, with the Divinity, and was capable of beholding the eternal realities. This faculty of contemplating reality in a direct and immediate manner belongs to God alone. The aspiration for this knowledge constitutes what is really meant by **philosophy—the love of wisdom**. The love of truth is inherently the love of good; and so predominating over every desire of the soul, purifying it and assimilating it to the divine, thus governing every act of the individual, it raises man to a participation and communion with Divinity, and restores him to the likeness of God.“ This flight,” says Plato in the Theeetetus, “ consists in becoming like God, and this assimilation is the becoming just and holy with wisdom.” Vol. I, Before the Veil, xv

- The doctrine of Metempsychosis has been abundantly ridiculed by men of science and rejected by theologians, yet if it had been properly understood in its application to the indestructibility of matter and the immortality of spirit, it would have been perceived that it is a sublime conception. Should we not first regard the subject from the stand-point of the ancients before venturing to disparage its teachers? The solution of the great problem of eternity belongs neither to religious superstition nor to gross materialism. The harmony and mathematical equiformity of the double evolution — spiritual and physical — are elucidated only in the universal numerals of Pythagoras, who built his system entirely upon the so-called "metrical speech" of the Hindu Vedas. Vol. I, Ch. I, p.8

- If the Pythagorean metempsychosis should be thoroughly explained and compared with the modern theory of evolution, it would be found to supply every "missing link" in the chain of the latter. But who of our scientists would consent to lose his precious time over the vagaries of the ancients. Notwithstanding proofs to the contrary, they not only deny that the nations of the archaic periods, but even the ancient philosophers

had any positive knowledge of the Heliocentric system. The "Venerable Bedes," the Augustines and Lactantii appear to have smothered, with their dogmatic ignorance, all faith in the more ancient theologists of the pre-Christian centuries. But now philology and a closer acquaintance with Sanskrit literature have partially enabled us to vindicate them from these unmerited imputations. In the Vedas, for instance, we find positive proof that so long ago as 2000 B.C., the Hindu sages and scholars must have been acquainted with the rotundity of our globe and the Heliocentric system. Hence, Pythagoras and Plato knew well this astronomical truth; for Pythagoras obtained his knowledge in India, or from men who had been there, and Plato faithfully echoed his teachings. Vol. 1, Ch. I, p.8,

- There was not a philosopher of any notoriety who did not hold to this doctrine of metempsychosis, as taught by the Brahmans, Buddhists, and later by the Pythagoreans, in its esoteric sense, whether he expressed it more or less intelligibly. Origen and Clemens Alexandrinus, Synesius and Chalcidius, all believed in it; and the Gnostics, who are unhesitatingly proclaimed by history as a body of the most refined, learned, and enlightened men, were all believers in metempsychosis. Socrates entertained opinions identical with those of Pythagoras; and both, as the penalty of their divine philosophy, were put to a violent death...

- The rabble has been the same in all ages. Materialism has been, and will ever be blind to spiritual truths. These philosophers held, with the Hindus, that God had infused into matter a portion of his own Divine Spirit, which animates and moves every particle. Aristotle, notwithstanding that for political reasons of his own he maintained a prudent silence as to certain esoteric matters, expressed very clearly his opinion on the subject. It was his belief that human souls are emanations of God, that are finally re-absorbed into Divinity. Zeno, the founder of the Stoics, taught that there are “two eternal qualities throughout nature: the one active; or male, the other passive, or female: that the former is pure, subtile ether, or Divine Spirit; the other entirely inert in itself till united with the active principle. Vol. 1, Ch. I, p. 14

- Early in the present century a Florentine scientist, a skeptic and a correspondent of the French Institute, having been permitted to penetrate in disguise to the hallowed precincts of a Buddhist temple, where the most solemn of all ceremonies was taking place, relates the following as having been seen by himself. An altar is ready in the temple to receive the resuscitated Buddha, found by the initiated priesthood, and recognized by certain secret signs to have reincarnated himself in a new-born infant. The baby, but a few days old, is brought into the presence of the people and reverentially placed upon the altar. Suddenly rising into a sitting posture, the child begins to utter in a loud, manly voice...: "I am Buddha, I am his spirit; and I, Buddha, your Dalai-Lama, have left my old, decrepit body, at the temple of . . . and selected the body of this young babe as my next earthly dwelling." Our scientist, being finally permitted by the priests to take, with due reverence, the baby in his arms, and carry it away to such a distance from them as to satisfy him that no ventriloquial deception is being practiced, the infant looks at the grave academician with eyes that "make his flesh creep," as he expresses it, and repeats the words he had previously uttered. Vol. I, Ch. 12

- A detailed account of this adventure, attested with the signature of this eye-witness, was forwarded to Paris, but the members of the Institute, instead of accepting the testimony of a scientific observer of acknowledged credibility, concluded that the Florentine was either suffering under an attack of sunstroke, or had been deceived by a clever trick of acoustics... there is a verse in the Lotus* which says that "A Buddha is as difficult to be found as the flowers of Udumbara and Palaca," if we are to believe several eye-witnesses, such a phenomenon does happen. Of course its occurrence is rare, for it happens but on the death of every great Dalai-Lama; and these venerable old gentlemen live proverbially long lives. Vol. I, Ch. 12

See also

- Afterlife
- Ageless Wisdom teachings
- Compassion
- Cremation
- Death
- Discipline
- *Graceful Exits: How Great Beings Die*
- Incarnation
- Initiation
- Integrity
- Justice
- Karma (law of cause and effect)
- Love
- Luck
- Masters of Wisdom
- Meaning of life
- Philosophy
- Rule of Law
- Self-realization
- Vicarious atonement
- Vices
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